

# First Presbyterian Church

## Wooster, Ohio

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2020

First Presbyterian Church is a Christian community dedicated to showing God's love through worship, study, social justice, mission outreach, and fellowship.



**More Light Church and Member of Covenant Network  
Earth Care Congregation and a Matthew 25 Church**

WELCOME

Reverend David Rice

PRELUDE

*Adagio, from 'Sonata I in f-minor'*

*Felix Mendelssohn*

Eric J. Gastier, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Troy, Emily, Audrey Covey, Kennedy McMillen

One: Despite what the reality may be,  
God's hope, forgiveness, and renewal never fail.

**All: The God of Hope empowers us.**

One: The depth of God's love calls us to forgive one another.

**All: The God of Love encourages us.**

One: God's Spirit helps us to let go  
and be refreshed and renewed through reconciliation.

**All: Come, let us worship God, whose love and grace forgives, renews and heals.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY +

We thank you, God, that you are here with us and in us.

We discover you through those who listen to our loneliness and celebrate our happiness.

We meet you when we share the anxious hours and triumphant moments of others.

We offer ourselves as grateful agents of your spirit and joyful channels of your love.

In Jesus' name, **Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

One: God of patience and forgiveness,  
we come before you in a time self-reflection.

Cleanse our hearts, O God, for we come to be one with your Holy Presence.

**All: We name those times when we have held on to our grudges  
rather than letting them go. (silence)**

**We name those times when we have wanted to seek vengeance  
rather than seek peace and reconciliation. (silence)**

**We name those times when we let our anger  
get the best of our judgment and reason. (silence)**

**We name those times when we resisted the call  
to walk in gentleness with your loving spirit. (silence)  
We name those times when we do not trust your wisdom and your caring.  
Help us to let go of all that stands between us, O Loving God.**

*Here each worshiper may offer personal, silent prayer.*

Gracious God, hear our prayers.      **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

Spirit's presence is in us, between us, and embracing us always.  
Through the unity of this Spirit, we are shaped into a community  
that lives to fulfill love's expectations.

In the joy of the forgiven, let us live into that hope for ourselves and for the world.

**Thanks be to God! Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you . . .      **And also with you.**

RALLY DAY

MUSICAL OFFERING      *Alla siciliana, from 'Organ Concerto in F-major'*      *George Frederick Handel*

SCRIPTURE      Genesis 50:15-21      Psalm 103:1-13

SERMON      *Let It Begin with Me*      Ann Gastier

HYMN      *Let There Be Peace on Earth*      *Jill Jackson-Miller & Sy Miller*  
Scott and Elizabeth Perkins

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE      *Fuga, from 'Sonata II in c-minor'*      *Felix Mendelssohn*

+ Liturgy adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*. Facebook Link: <https://www.facebook.com/FPCWooster/>

**Earth Care Pledge:** Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

**The Mission of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians** is to strengthen the church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God's grace. We are called to achieve this goal by furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, and by working for the unity of the PC(USA). The Covenant Network of Presbyterians calls the church to bear a unified witness to generous hospitality and faithful justice.

**The Mission of More Light Presbyterians:** Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQIA+) people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.

**The Mission of the Matthew 25 Church:** Matthew 25:31–46 calls us to actively engage the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. We commit ourselves to congregational vitality by acting boldly and compassionately to end systemic poverty and structural racism, serving people who are oppressed, imprisoned, poor.