

# First Presbyterian Church

## Wooster, Ohio

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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

MINISTRY FOCUS

*Peace and Global Witness Offering*

Carla Hall

PRELUDE

*So Fades the Lovel Blooming Flower*

*arr. George Shearing*

Eric J. Gastier, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP +

Marian Cropp

One: When we are hungry for a sustaining faith, we ask, "Are you among us, O God?"

**All: When we are thirsty for justice and peace, we ask, "Are you among us, O God?"**

One: As wandering people who long for mercy, we ask, "Are you among us, O God?"

**All: Secure in the freedom of your love, we ask,**

**"Come among us, O God, and refresh us as we worship you."**

PRAYER OF THE DAY +

God of desert days and wilderness nights,

we rest in the comfort of your presence and trust in the sustaining power of your love.

Provide us with all that we need to live abundantly and serve with abandon. **Amen**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION +

One: O God, we stand at the brink of what has been and what is yet to be.

**All: We long to receive the gift of your liberation**

**and to taste the sweetness of your promises.**

**But the way forward is unknown and so we hesitate:**

**discouraged, frightened, insecure, complaining.**

One: Yet we know we must move ahead on our journey.

**All: Make us mindful of your sustaining presence and, like a bird in full flight,**

**may this assurance soar within our faith,**

**so we can rise above the challenges of this moment.**

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

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS +

Even when our cups run dry, God's grace overflows.  
Even when our plates are empty, God's generosity overflows.  
And even when our hearts feel barren, God's love overflows.  
Friends, you have been called and claimed by the God of all things.  
In the abundance of God's grace and by the power of God's love,  
may we know and trust that we are forgiven,  
and may we go in peace to forgive others. **Amen**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Amy Baxstrom

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Nancy Young

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Romance – Andante tranquillo, from 'Five Bagatelles'*

*Gerald Finzi*

Jeffrey Anderson, clarinet

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 17:1-7

SERMON

*Is the Lord Among Us?*

PRAYER OF BLESSING

*Mi Shebeibach*

*Debbie Friedman with Drorah Setel*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Fanfare (Psalm 81:1-3)*

*John Cook*

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

Clarinetist **Jeffrey Anderson** has served in the Ohio Light Opera Orchestra for six seasons. He holds a doctorate in Clarinet Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory with a cognate in Piano Performance, as well as degrees from Michigan State and Bowling Green State Universities. Jeffrey is currently teaching at Allen Community College in Iola, Kansas.

**The flowers today are given in memory of all those who have died of Covid-19, by Shannon Foster.**

**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 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.