



# First Presbyterian Church

Middletown, Ohio

[www.fpcmiddletown.com](http://www.fpcmiddletown.com)

**August 22, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.**

## **Prelude**

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*  
Brian Shepard and Janet Scott

arr. James/Ream

## **Introit**

*In Joyful Song*  
Sanctuary Octet

Joel Raney

## **Call to Worship**

From Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place,  
LORD of heavenly forces!

**My very being longs, even yearns,  
for the LORD's courtyards.**

My heart and my body  
will rejoice out loud to the living God!

**Yes, the sparrow too has found a home there;  
the swallow has found herself a nest  
where she can lay her young beside your altars,  
LORD of heavenly forces, my king, my God!**

Those who live in your house are truly happy;  
they praise you constantly

**Better is a single day in your courtyards  
than a thousand days anywhere else!**

I would prefer to stand outside the entrance of my God's house  
than live comfortably in the tents of the wicked!

**The LORD is a sun and shield;  
God is favor and glory.**

## **Hymn #402**

*How Lovely Lord*

Merle's Tune

## **Silent Prayer of Confession**

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

## **Gloria Patri**

Hymnal #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen!

## **Circle Time**

Lisa Kaufer

## Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture

John 6:56-69  
Ephesians 6:10-20

### Sermon

Michael Isaacs

### Anthem

*Healer of My Heart*  
Sanctuary Octet

arr. Tom Fettke

### Affirmation of Faith (responsive)

from South Africa

It is not true that this world and its inhabitants are doomed to die and be lost;

**This is true: for God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him shall not die, but have everlasting life.**

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction;

**This is true: I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.**

It is not true that violence and hatred shall have the last word, and that war and destruction have come to stay forever;

**This is true: for to us a child is born, to us a son is given, in whom authority will rest, and whose name will be Prince of Peace.**

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil that seek to rule the world;

**This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo, I am with you always, to the end of the world.**

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the church, before we can do anything;

**This is true: I will pour out my Spirit on all people, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young people shall see visions, and your old folk dream dreams.**

It is not true that our dreams of liberation of humankind, our dreams of justice, of human dignity, of peace, are not meant for this earth and its history;

**This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that true worshippers shall worship God in Spirit and in truth.**

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer (unison)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### Charge and Benediction

Postlude

*Be Thou My Vision*

arr. John Leavitt



# *Our Life Together...*

**Leading Worship today:** Michael Isaacs, Pastor; Brian Shepard, Music Director, Janet Scott, pianist, organist; Tony Susco, Worship Assistant; Sanctuary Octet; Jim Harris, Sound Technician; Debbie Cover, Barista.

**Sanctuary Octet:** Linda Bursk, Lara Moon, Joe Newlin, Tina Newlin, Mick Susco, Tony Susco, Phil Thornbery, and Sarah Thornbery.

Hearing aids and large print bulletins are available for use during the worship services. Please contact an usher for assistance.

## Announcements

### COVID-19 Updates from June 22 Session Meeting

Session continues to work diligently to be safe, responsible, and faithful to God and neighbor. After discussion, reflection, and prayer, here are the recent updates for our COVID-19 response.

- The nursery and Sunday school will resume in September. We will be hiring a second nursery attendant to provide consistent staffing and diligence about safety protocols.
- The Welcome Team will be resuming their ministry of greeting on Sunday mornings. Would you like to participate in this way? If so, let Sandy know in the office.
- Fellowship Hour will remain outside, but will move inside in the event of rain.
- Masks remain encouraged and social distancing remains in place in the sanctuary.

- Session also discussed a helpful reflection from a church leader in another setting about the pace of ministry at this time; it is titled *Hitting the Ground Running?* Read it here: <https://mministry.org/hitting-the-ground-running>

Session appreciates everyone's diligence and patience.

**The Phil DeGreg Jazz Trio** will join us for worship on August 29.

**Pre-K Readiness:** We still have openings for our Pre-K program this fall! Help us fill them by spreading the word.

**Resuming In-Person Nursery Care and Sunday School:** In September, we look forward to sharing a warm welcome for children and families as they are ready to return in-person to the Nursery and Sunday School. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Lisa Kaufer.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** will resume on **September 14** at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Room. We will begin with a study of James.

### *Prayer list*

Please submit any prayer requests for today's service to Michael before the worship service begins, the submitted requests will be included here next week.

### *Contribute from your device*

Use this QR code for the online giving portal. You do not need to create an account for a one-time contribution.

