



## First Presbyterian Church

Middletown, Ohio  
[www.fpcmiddletown.com](http://www.fpcmiddletown.com)

**July 18, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.**

### **Prelude**

*Arise, My Soul. Arise*

arr. Dan Forrest

### **Call to Worship**

God embraces us with mercy and love, calling us to life and faith.

**We are new people in God's love.**

God invites us out of sin and darkness, and into the light.

**We are new people in God's love.**

God tears down the old divisions between us and joins us together in faith.

**We are new people in God's love.**

God is our peace—we have nothing to fear.

**We are new people in God's love.**

God welcomes our trust and blesses us with grace.

**We are new people in God's love.**

### **Hymn #824**

*Near to the Heart of God*

McAfee

### **Prayer of Confession**

In your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Christ is among us as our peace, yet we are divided against ourselves. We cling to the values of a broken world. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

### **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**

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56  
Ephesians 2:11-22

**Sermon**

Michael Isaacs

**Solo**

*The Gospel of Grace*  
Tara Downie, Soprano

arr. Mark Hayes

**Affirmation of Faith**

from a Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.  
We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,  
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and live holy and joyful lives.  
With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**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**

*He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*

arr. Emma Lou Diemer



# *Our Life Together...*

**Leading Worship today:** Michael Isaacs, Pastor; Janet Scott, Organist; Tara Downie, Song Leader; Lynne Wiley, Barista; Linda Bursk, Liturgist.

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 physical office will fully re-open on August 2, including for those who wish to volunteer throughout the week. If you'd like to help out during the week, call the office and let us know.
- 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.

### **July Discussion Group on Poetry and Theology on Job**

The group will **not** meet on July 19, but will meet again on July 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. Join a reading discussion group on Diane Glancy's collection of poetry titled *Island of the Innocent: A Consideration on the Book of Job*.

## **Compassion Camp: Changing the World with Lovingkindness**

Join us each week in July as we explore what it means to have compassion for others, ourselves, and the world. Activities for all ages will be available online each Sunday and we'll connect online via Zoom each **Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.**

Sign up for Compassion Camp, so we can send you more detailed information about receiving weekly content and participating in online gatherings. Contact Lisa Kaufer for more information ([lisa@fpcmiddletown.com](mailto:lisa@fpcmiddletown.com)).

**Support Highview Sixth Grade Center!** The 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Highview will be introduced to computer coding. Imagine them creating a circuit board on a piece of cardboard with the toothpicks, marshmallows and popsicle sticks that are among the supplies that have been requested for the first quarter. We receive a list of needs quarterly. Some are simple and inexpensive but others are in greater quantity and cost a lot more. To help support this mission, a suggested donation is \$35 or whatever you are able to give. We are also collecting boxes to be used for cardboard for the program.

## ***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.

