



First Presbyterian Church

Middletown, Ohio
www.fpcmiddletown.com

July 25, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

Prelude

Amazing Grace

arr. Robert A. Hobby

Call to Worship

Do you feel it? God's kingdom is beneath our feet.

We live in the new creation shaped by God out of our brokenness.

Do you know it? God's reconciling love in Christ has shattered our ways of viewing people.

No longer do we label our sisters and brothers, we welcome them with open arms.

Do you believe it? God has made everything, including us, new, **and sends us forth to share this good news with everyone!**

Hymn #418

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

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

Matthew 20:1-16

Luke 15:11-32

Sermon

Lisa Kaufer

Anthem

I've Got Peace Like a River
Handbell Ensemble

arr. T. Waldrop

Affirmation of Faith

from Iona Abbey Worship Book

Out of death came life, and God defeated evil:

an empty cross and an empty tomb,

a nail mark shown and a presence known.

Out of sorrow came joy, and God sent the Spirit:

coming like fire to all people and ages,

coming to birth in the water of life.

Out of difference came unity, and God's people were called:

called to receive Christ in bread and wine,

called to be free in the power of love.

For when the Holy Spirit comes upon us,

we will be filled with power,

and be witnesses for Christ to the ends of the earth.

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

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy arr. Anne Organ



Our Life Together...

Leading Worship today: Lisa Kaufer, Guest Speaker; Allan Smillie, Worship Assistant; Janet Scott, Organist; Handbell Ensemble; Jim Harris, Sound Technician; Shirley Steel, Barista.

Handbell Ensemble: **Dianne Gerber, Karen Moser, Sandi Templeton, Phil Thornbery, Sarah Thornbery, Lynne Wiley.**

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 meet 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).

Support Highview Sixth Grade Center! It is estimated that over the last 30 years, 2,300 elementary students have been the recipients of First Presbyterian Church's Backpack mission. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated as we provide needed supplies for Highview 6th Grade Center. **A donation of \$30 is suggested but any amount is welcome.** (You can give by check or online fpcmiddletown.com. - click on 'Online Giving' and make a contribution in the 'special gifts' field, then type in Highview in the 'notes' field.) **You can also recycle your old cardboard boxes by bringing them to church where they will be flattened and delivered to the school!**

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.

