



# First Presbyterian Church

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

October 31, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

**Prelude**

*Simple Gifts*

Lani Smith

**Call to Worship**

from Psalm 145

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

**Let us worship the God who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;**

Let us worship the God who keeps faith forever;

who brings justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

**The Lord sets the prisoners free;**

**the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;**

**the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;**

**the Lord loves the righteous;**

**the Lord watches over the strangers;**

God upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**The LORD will reign forever.**

**Praise the LORD!**

**Hymn #35**

*Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* Lobe Den Herren

**Prayer of Confession**

Adapted from prayers of Martin Luther

Waken our hearts, O Lord, our God; make them ever watchful to serve your purposes. Trouble us with the smallness of our vision and work. Trouble us with your great love for sinners and our own slowness to make you our greatest love. Trouble us with the brevity of our lives and time, talent, and treasure not invested in eternity. Comfort us by drawing us to yourself with the cords of your unfailing mercy. Comfort us, O Lord, with the assurance of our salvation and unending glory with you when we suffer and are afflicted. Rekindle in us a renewed desire for the coming of your glorious kingdom when all wrongs will be made right and when everything that is broken will be made whole.

**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!

**Invitation to Sunday School****Scripture**

Mark 12:28-34

Ruth 1:1-18

**Sermon**

Michael Isaacs

**Anthem**

*God Is Our Refuge and Strength*  
Sanctuary Choir

Lloyd Larson

**Affirmation of Faith**

From our Bicentennial Celebration (2019)

We believe that the same Spirit that filled Peter and the apostles on Pentecost nearly 2000 years ago, filled Ezekiel Ball, Moses Karr, and many other women and men of Middletown in 1819. The same Spirit fills us today. We believe that we do not exist on our own efforts, but simply by the grace of God. The church is to be a community of faith, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life. We believe that God has placed us in Middletown to point beyond ourselves to the word and work of God's redeeming love. Never working alone, we are in a community of saints that transcends time and space. We are formed as Christ's risen body in the world. Through the Holy Spirit, we are clothed with power for ministry, even when the work feels bewildering. We worship God alone. We belong to God alone. We serve God alone.

**Welcome and Announcements****Minute for Mission** Christmas Baskets**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.

**Hymn #716***God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

Beach Spring

**Charge and Benediction****Postlude***A Might Fortress Is Our God*

Hayes/Gapard



# *Our Life Together...*

**Leading Worship today:** Michael Isaacs, Pastor; Joyce Zigler, Director of Music Ministries/Organist; Brian Shepard, Director/Pianist; Sanctuary Choir; Fay Smillie, Worship Assistant; Parker Shablak, Sound Technician; Shirley Steel, Barista.

The deacons have placed three white carnations on the chancel rail in loving memory of **Crawford Williams**, who died on October 24 and for Peter Seifert's sister and brother-in-law, **Ellen** and **Wolfgang Kirchberg**, who passed away recently.

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

**Sensory toys** are available outside of the nursery for children who may wish to use them during worship.

## *Announcements*

**Please keep these COVID-19 provisions** in mind as we gather for our worship and ministry:

- Masks are encouraged for the inclusion of the immunocompromised and children in worship.
- Social distancing is enforced in the sanctuary by the use of alternating pews.
- The length of the worship services will be forty-five minutes and not include the passing of any materials.

Fellowship Hour will resume indoors and congregational singing resumed on October 24

**Sanctuary Youth** will rehearse this Wed. from 6:45 – 7:30 p.m.

**The Sanctuary Choir** will rehearse this Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** will meet on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Room. We are studying the Wisdom Literature of the Hebrew Bible.

**Next Sunday is All Saints Sunday.** We will remember those who have preceded us in faith. If you would like to add a name to the list, please e-mail [sandy@fpcmiddletown.com](mailto:sandy@fpcmiddletown.com) or call the office before Wednesday at noon. All members who have died since November 2020 will be included.

## Children's Ministry

**Nursery Care** is available for infants and children up to 5 years old every Sunday, located next to Room 110. **Sunday School** (children ages 6-12) is offered most Sundays in the Godly Play Room following the Gloria Patri, at which time leaders will escort children to Sunday School. (See PresbyNews for Sunday School schedule.) When worship concludes, parents/guardians will need to come to the Godly Play Room to pick up their child(ren). **Note:** Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, we are following the CDC's recommendation by requiring universal indoor masking in these classrooms by all individuals (age 2 and older), regardless of vaccination status.

**Men's Monthly Meeting** is an opportunity for the men of the church to get together and socialize over dinner. On **Tuesday, November 9**, the meeting will be at The Clubhouse Sports Grille, 250 N. Main St., Monroe, at **5:30 p.m.** Hope to see you there!

**There is a place for you here!** Join the Finance committee on November 21 for a dedication and celebration on **November 21** in Fellowship Hall. The celebration will follow worship.

## 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.

