



## First Presbyterian Church

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

**September 26, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Prelude**

*Shepherd Me, O God*

Marty Haugen

### **Call to Worship**

Our help is in the strength of God, who created all that is.

**Who are we, that God remembers us?**

Our blessings come from God, giver of all good gifts.

**Who are we, to be graced by God's bounty?**

Our salvation comes from God, light in our darkness.

**Who are we, to be redeemed by God's love?**

Our calling as servants and friends comes from God,  
whose image we reflect.

**Who are we, that God's Spirit shines out from us?**

**All praise to the living God!**

**Hymn #804**

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

Marion

### **Prayer of Confession**

God of grace and God of glory, we live in difficult times. We confess that we do not ask for the help of others—to pray for us. We do not seek your wisdom to advise us. Worst of all, we do not seek your power—to uphold us. In your great mercy, forgive us. Grant us the fortitude to ask for help in the living of these days.

### **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**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Scripture**

Mark 9:38-50  
James 5:13-20

### **Sermon**

Michael Isaacs

### **Anthem**

*Honest Prayers*  
Sanctuary Choir

Heather Sorenson

### **Affirmation of Faith**

from the Reformed Church of Australia

We believe in God,  
who made the world and reaches out to it  
with a love that is fierce and passionate,  
tender and kind.

We believe in Jesus the Christ;  
God revealed in a human life.  
Jesus touched the untouchable  
and pardoned the unforgivable  
Raised by God,  
Jesus is parting the sea of evil and despair  
and leading us across into the land of freedom  
and promise.

We believe in the Holy Spirit;  
whose breathing gives life;  
whose fire purges and renews;  
whose wisdom awakens courage and hope.

Gathered by the Spirit,  
we have been baptized into a common life:  
overflowing with love and mercy;  
richer than mind can measure,  
but appearing foolish to the world.  
And we trust that the foolishness of God  
will prove wiser than the wisdom of the world,  
and that the suffering of God will heal the earth  
and fulfill our hopes of justice and peace.

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Minute for Mission**

FPC Response to Natural Disasters

## 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 #792**

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

Balm in Gilead

## Charge and Benediction

**Postlude**

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

Albert L. Travis



# *Our Life Together...*

**Leading Worship today:** Michael Isaacs, Pastor; Joyce Zigler, Director of Music Ministries/Organist; Janet Scott, Director/Pianist; Marty Hensler, Worship Assistant; Marge Wooley, Minute for Mission; Dave Jenkins, Sound Technician; Sharon Perkins, Barista.

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

## Announcements

### **COVID-19 Reminder**

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

- Masks remain encouraged and social distancing remains in place in the sanctuary.
- Congregational singing will be reviewed at the October Session meeting.
- Fellowship will continue to meet outside, but will move inside for inclement weather.

Session appreciates everyone's diligence and patience.

**Sanctuary Youth** will rehearse this Wednesday at 6:45 in the sanctuary.

**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 will be doing a study of James.

Next week is **World Communion Sunday**.

If you would like to serve on the **Mission Committee**, please contact the church office.

**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.

**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.

