



# First Presbyterian Church

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

September 5, 2021

**Prelude**

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Joe Utterback

## **Call to Worship (responsive)**

Be rich in faith, says the God who gives us life.

**We trust in God, who is faithful to us.**

Be strong in spirit, says the God who carries us through life.

**We trust in God, who surrounds us with love.**

Be generous to one another, says the God of abundant grace.

**We trust in God, who is the giver of every gift.**

Be steadfast in your lives, says the God of wisdom.

**We trust in God, who endures forever.**

**Hymn #203**

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

Chereponi

## **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.

We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

## **Assurance of Pardon**

**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!

**Prayer for Illumination****Scripture**

Mark 7:24-37  
James 2:1-10, 14-17

**Sermon**

Michael Isaacs

**Solo**

*O God Beyond All Praising*  
Lara Moon, alto

Gustav Holst

**Affirmation of Faith (unison)**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Welcome and Announcements****Hymn #521***In Remembrance of Me*

Red

**The Lord' Supper****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***Toccata for a Joyful Day*

Emma Lou Diemer



# *Our Life Together...*

**Leading Worship today:** Michael Isaacs, Pastor; Emily Pheanis, Worship Assistant; Joyce Zigler, Director of Music Ministries/Organist; Lara Moon, Soloist, 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 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.

**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.

**The Sanctuary Choir** will rehearse each Wednesday in the choir room at 7:30 p.m. Singers welcome!

**The Renaissance Ringers** will rehearse this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

**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.

**Men's Monthly Meeting** is an opportunity for the men of the church to get together and socialize over dinner. On **Tuesday, September 14**, the meeting will be at The Clubhouse Sports Grille, 250 N. Main St., Monroe, at **5:30 p.m.** Hope to see you there!

### *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.

