



# First Presbyterian Church

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

September 11, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

**Prelude**

*The Gift of Love*

Joel Raney

**\* Call to Worship**

Psalm 119:169-176

Let my cry reach you, Lord;

**help me understand what you've said.**

Let my request for grace come before you;

**deliver me according to your promise!**

Let my lips overflow with praise

**because of what you've taught me.**

Let my tongue declare your word,

**because all your words are righteous.**

Let your power help me

**because I have chosen your precepts.**

Lord, I long for your saving help!

**Your Instruction is my joy!**

Let me live again so I can praise you!

**Let your commandments help me!**

I've wandered off like a sheep, lost.

**Find your servant as I remember you.**

**\* Hymn #803**

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

Resignation

**\* Prayer of Confession**

Gracious and loving God, we find it difficult at times to place our trust in you. Too often we look at the world and see only violence, pain, destruction, and signs of hopelessness and despair. Too often we rely on our own strength, our own plans, our own devices, rather than trusting in your hand to hold us, your love to sustain us, and your wisdom to see us through.

Forgive us, Holy One. Help us turn to you that we might find our way home. Help us navigate the treacherous waters of this world that we might experience your abundant grace, mercy, and love. Help us put our trust in you.

**\* Assurance of Forgiveness**

**\* Gloria Patri**

*We Are Forgiven*

Hymnal #447

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.  
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

**Scripture**

Luke 15:1-10

**Sermon**

“The Joy of Being Found”

Michael Isaacs

**\* Hymn #382**

*Heaven is Singing for Joy*

Alegria

Verses: soloists

Refrain: congregation

**\* Affirmation of Faith (unison)** 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 & Announcements

**Anthem**

*Acclamation of Assurance*  
Sanctuary Choir

Joseph Martin

### **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 #837**

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

Showalter

### **Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

*This Little Light of Mine*

Mark Hayes



# ***Our Life Together...***

**Leading worship today:** Michael Isaacs, Pastor; Paul Nisbet, Worship Assistant; Joyce Zigler, Director of Music Ministries/Organist; Sanctuary Choir; Parker Shablak, Sound Technician, Lynne Wiley, Barista.

The deacons have placed two white carnations on the chancel rail in loving memory of **Marilyn Williams**, who died on August 26, and for **Polly Lorenz**, who died on September 4.

**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.

**Join us for Fellowship Hour** in the Gathering Area before and after today's service. Stop by for fellowship and refreshments.

## *Announcements*

### **Children's Ministry**

**Nursery Care** is available for infants and children up to 5 years old every Sunday, located next to Room 110. Two Childcare Workers, Monique Watkins and Ingrid Cuadra, provide exceptional care for which we are grateful.

**Sunday School** (children ages 6-12) is offered most Sundays\* in the Godly Play Room following the Circle Time for Young Disciples portion of worship at which time leaders will escort children to Sunday School. When worship concludes, parents/guardians will need to come to the Godly Play Room to pick up their child(ren). (\*Note: In September, Sunday School will meet on 9/11, 9/18 and 9/25. We especially want to include children and youth in special worship celebrations such as Communion, Kirkin of the Tartans, etc.)

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

- Masks are optional in the Sanctuary and Gathering Area, masks are still required in the Nursery and Sunday School spaces.
- Social distancing is enforced in the sanctuary by the use of alternating pews.
- Worship does not include the passing of any materials.

### **Music Ministry**

***Calling all singers and ringers!*** There is always room for more singers in the *Sanctuary Choir*. Rehearsals are each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. The ***Renaissance Ringers schedule change:*** the first rehearsal will be on **Wednesday, September 21, at 6:30 p.m.** If you are not already a member of our wonderful musical family, please consider joining us this fall.

### **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.

**Use this QR code for the online giving portal.**

