



First Presbyterian Church

Middletown, Ohio
www.fpcmiddletown.com

August 20, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

Prelude

Morning Has Broken Setting by Joel Raney

* Call to Worship

Psalm 135

Leader: Praise the LORD!

**People: Praise the name of the LORD;
give praise, O servants of the LORD,**

Leader: You who stand in the house of the LORD,
in the courts of the house of our God.

**People: Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;
sing to his name, for he is gracious.**

* **Hymn #436** *God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us* O Quanta Qualia

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gracious and ever loving God, in your ancient but ever relevant stories, you have revealed your loving nature and will for how we should live. We confess that we have not always been as willing as your servant Joseph to forgive. Living in a culture that teaches us that we must get even for wrongs committed against us, we too easily give in to such pressures. By your Spirit strengthen our resolve to become more like you, and forgive us for those times when we have failed. In the silence of this moment, help us to recall our other failures this past week and seek your forgiveness.

* 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.

* Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Genesis 45:1-15

Duet

Kyrie Eleison ("Lord, have mercy") Ruth Schram
 Brian Shepard, tenor and Davis Dorrough, baritone
 with Sarah Thornbery, flute

Scripture

Matthew 15:21-28

Sermon

"Stories of Grace"

Rev. McNulty

* **Hymn #649** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* Amazing Grace

* **Affirmation of Faith (unison)** (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

In life and in death we belong to God. We trust in Jesus Christ, who proclaimed the reign of God, and delivered us from death to life eternal. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and made everyone equally in God's image to live as one community. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Welcome and Announcements**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings****Offertory***Immortal, Invisible*

Joseph Martin

Brian Shepard, tenor and Davis Dorrough, baritone

*** Doxology**

Hymnal #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
 Praise God, all creatures here below;
 Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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 #30

O God, in a Mysterious Way

Dundee

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Toccata on "Come, Thou Almighty King"* Gilbert Martin

* Please stand in Body or Spirit.



Our Life Together...

Leading Worship today: Rev. Ed McNulty, Guest Pastor; Kathy Harris, Worship Assistant; Joyce Zigler, Organist/Pianist; Brian Shepard, Pianist/Soloist; Davis Dorrrough, Pianist/Soloist; Jim Harris, Sound Technician; Debbie Cover, Barista.

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

Wiggle bags are available at each Sanctuary entrance to help children feel included and engaged during the worship service.

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

Masks are now considered optional in the nursery and Sunday School. As needed, masks and hand sanitizer are available in the hallway of the education wing.

Music Ministry

It's time to sing and ring again! The *Sanctuary Choir* will have its first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 6, at 7:30 p.m.

The *Renaissance Ringers* will have their first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 13, at 6:00 p.m.

If you are not already a member of our incredible musical family, please consider joining us this fall. *Being part of a choir is the most wonderful team you will ever join!*

We would love to add another sound tech or two to our roster. Please call Joyce Zigler (513-422-6365) if you are interested or have questions about being a sound tech.

Nursery Care is available for infants and children up to 5 years old, 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) will take a break during the summer months.

Prayer list

To submit prayer requests, please use the prayer card found in the pew in front of you. These may be placed in the offering plate as it is passed. The submitted requests will be included here next week.

Peg Bosch	Henry & Lena	Allan & Fay Smillie
Lola Bruner	Ken & Debbie Jacobs	Carla Smith
Linda Decatur	Scott & Janis Nein	Shirley Steel
Gary & Lynne Getter	John & Nancy Peterson	Pet & Mary Stilianos
Helen Haass	Thelma & Julie Ramsey	Connie Willis
Mike Hamlin	Fred & Lynn Rentschler	Ruth & Morgan Willis
Darla Harrison	Van Rudd	The people of Maui

Use this QR code for the online giving portal.



CALENDAR

Sunday	20	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday	21	1:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting
Wednesday	23	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship
Thursday	24	6:00 p.m.	Yoga
		7:30 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
Sunday	27	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service