



# First Presbyterian Church

Middletown, Ohio

[www.fpcmiddletown.com](http://www.fpcmiddletown.com)

September 17, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

**Prelude**

*How Can I Keep from Singing?*

John S. Dixon

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **\* Call to Worship**

from Psalm 66

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

**Give to God glorious praise and sing!**

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

**All the earth worships you;**

All the earth sing praises to you,

**sing praises to your name."**

Come and see what God has done:

**God is awesome in his deeds among mortals.**

### **\* Hymn #415**

*Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

Restoration

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

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

### **\* 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!

### **\* Passing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer for Illumination

**Scripture** Genesis 50:15-21

**Scripture** Matthew 18:21--35

**Sermon** "Community of Forgiveness" Rev. Stan Gockel

\* **Hymn #435** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* In Babilone

### \* **Affirmation of Faith (unison)**

We believe in God who loves us and wants us to love each other, this is our God. We believe in Jesus who cared about children and held them in his arms. He wanted a world where everyone could live together in peace. This is Jesus Christ. We believe in the Holy Spirit who keeps working with us until everything is good and true. This is the Holy Spirit. We can be the Church which reminds people of God because we love each other. This we believe. Amen

**Presentation of New Members** Ann Veith

### **Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** *House of Grace* Joseph Martin  
Sanctuary Choir

\* **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 #620** *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* Lauda Anima

### **Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude** *How Firm a Foundation* Molly Ijames

\* Please stand in Body or Spirit.



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

**Leading Worship today:** Rev. Stan Gockel, Guest Preacher; Larry Anderson, Worship Assistant; Joyce Zigler, Director of Music Ministries, Organist; Brian Shepard, Pianist; Sanctuary Choir; 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.

**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 and have a piece of cake with our new members.

## *Announcements*



Join us in Fellowship Hall following the worship service and greet our new members: Davis Dorrrough, Jerry and Barb Ralston, and Brian Shepard.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** meets in the Youth Room at 10:00 a.m. We will be exploring the book "Sabbath as Resistance" (Saying NO to the Culture of Now). Books are available in the church office or pick one up at Bible Study. If you have any questions, call the church office or contact Barb Nein at [barbara.nein@yahoo.com](mailto:barbara.nein@yahoo.com).

The *Sanctuary Choir* will rehearse Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

### **Children's Ministry**

**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)** is offered most Sundays\* in the Godly Play Room following the Passing of the Peace 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: This month, Sunday School

will meet on 9/17 and 9/24. We especially want to include children and youth in special worship celebrations such as Communion, etc.)

## 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.

Kitty Blattner	Family of Al Karchner	Geneva Shea
Lola Bruner	John & Nancy Peterson	Allan & Fay Smillie
Letitia Curless	Danny Raleigh	Happy Birthday to
Helen Haass	Thelma & Julie Ramsey	Tara Downie
Mike Hamlin	Van Rudd	Happy Birthday to
Ken Jacobs	Gene & Wilberta	Gudrun Seifert
Cheryl Jarbo	Schaefer	

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

