

First Presbyterian Church

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*Celebrating our history,
we look toward our future.*



The Order of Worship

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

September 3, 2017

WELCOME. We are delighted to have you with us this morning!
Following the service, please join us downstairs to meet others
and enjoy light refreshments.

As we enter the sanctuary, let us prepare for worship.

As we make the transition from “getting here”
to “being here,” you are invited to take these moments
to come fully into the presence of God and our faith community.

Listen and hear God speak to you...

Respond quietly to God...

Speak to one another in love...

Large Print Hymnals and Children’s Activity Bags are available from the Usher.

*Please rise as you are able.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

- Psalm 89

One: We will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

**All: With our mouths we will proclaim your faithfulness
to all generations.**

One: We declare that your steadfast love is established
forever;

All: Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

One: Let us worship God!

***Hymn #409 “God is Here”**

***Prayer of Confession:**

One: We know that nothing is able to separate us from the
love of God in Jesus Christ. Let us in freedom confess
the wrongs we have done and the things we have left
undone.

- drawing from Psalms 51 and 130

**All: Have mercy on me, O God, in your faithful love,
in your great tenderness wipe away my offences.**

**Wash me thoroughly from my guilt,
and purify me from my sin.**

**For I am well aware of my offences,
my sin is constantly in my mind.**

Against you, and you alone, I have sinned.

**I have done what you see to be wrong,
that you may show your saving justice when you
pass sentence,
and your victory may appear when you give
judgment.**

**God, create in me a clean heart,
renew within me a resolute spirit.**

**Do not thrust me away from your presence,
and do not take away from me your spirit of
holiness.**

Give me back the joy of your salvation.

One: Our prayers continue in silence.... Amen.

***The Assurance of Pardon**

One: To all who turn from sin in sorrow,
and turn to God in hope,
this is God's Word of grace:

All: We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved.

One: Friends, hear the good news:

**All: In Jesus Christ, by grace through faith,
we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

***Celebration of Our Pardon**

Hymn #839 *"Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!"* (verse 1)

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story; this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story; this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;*

***The Peace**

One: Since God has forgiven us in Jesus Christ,

All: Let us forgive one another.

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the signs of peace with one another.

*You are invited to greet those around you
with words and signs of God's reconciling peace.*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Exodus 3:1-15
Matthew 16:21-28

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon "Here I Am"

***Hymn #69 "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is indeed right.... *(the prayer continues)*

The Lord's Prayer (Ecumenical)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Communion will be served by intinction. You are invited to come forward to receive the elements. If you are unable to move forward the servers will come to you in your pew.

Prayer following the Meal

**Gracious God, you have so greatly loved us,
long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us.**

**May this meal strengthen us in your grace,
that as we walk our earthly way with our Risen
Lord, our love might be Christ's love, reaching out
to the world with the tender hands of your mercy.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Reception of Tithes & Offerings

***Offertory Response**

Hymn #717 "For the Life that You Have Given"

*For the life that you have given,
For the love in Christ made known,
With these fruits of time and labor,
With these gifts that are your own:
Here we offer, Lord, our praises;
Heart and mind and strength we bring;
Give us grace to love and serve you,
Living what we pray and sing.*

***Offertory Prayer**

***Hymn #748** *“Go With Us, Lord”*

***Charge and Blessing**

Postlude

THIS SERVICE is broadcast each Sunday on station KDWA 1460 AM/97.7 FM, and is lived streamed on www.kdwa.com

This morning we welcome the **Rev. Dr. Barbara Anne Keely** to lead our worship service. Following a career working in the business and non-profit sectors, Rev. Keely was professor of Church Leadership and Administration at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in New Brighton for 24 years. In 2015, Rev. Keely left teaching to become a Transitional Pastor. She recently served the yoked parish of First United Presbyterian Church in Baldwin and First Presbyterian Church of St. Croix Falls, WI.

Volunteers This Morning:

Greeters: Sylvia Tayson & Bernice Wittkopf

Ushers: Grant and Becky Tiefenbruck

Lay leader: Kristin Blevins

Communion Preparation: Carolyn Blumeyer & Sonia Christian

Communion Server: Grant Tiefenbruck

Prayer Requests/Prayer Chain: Prayer requests can be written on the blue cards found in the pew racks. If you would like the confidential prayer chain of FPCH to continue in prayer for your request, write that on the card. Pass the card to the pastor during the Passing of the Peace. You may contact the prayer chain at any time by contacting the Deacon listed on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers Next Sunday, September 10th:

Greeter: Brenda Reiter

Ushers: Lee and Marcia Rash

Lay leader: Grant Tiefenbruck

Ministers: Every member of the congregation

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Steve Robertson

Lead Musician: Pat Dymacek, **Pianist:** Karen Altpeter

Session: Karen Altpeter, Dennis Brown, Mary Crawmer, David Hume, Brenda Reiter, Grant Tiefenbruck (Clerk of Session)

Deacons: Carolyn Blumeyer, Margaret Brown, Sonia Christian, Helen Ott, Shannon Stenzel, Becky Tiefenbruck

Announcements

The Session will meet next on Monday, September 11 at 6:30 pm at the church.

The **Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area** will meet on Tuesday, September 12 at 4 pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Red Wing, MN. It is an agenda full of excitement and information. Along with installing the Rev. Dr. Jeff Japinga as our Executive Presbyter and Elder Barbara Lutter as our new Stated Clerk, we will hear from the Rev. Adam Copeland, Director of Stewardship and Leadership at Luther Seminary on the topic of “Stewardship Today.” If you would like more information about attending the presbytery, including serving as our congregation’s commissioner representative, please contact Pastor Steve.

Our Mission

Following Christ, we strive to love and serve the world
so that all may grow in faith and experience true joy.