

First Presbyterian Church

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



The Order of Worship

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

September 10, 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 Fellowship Hall, 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**

One: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

All: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

We desire to live in God’s house

and to seek God in the holy temple.

We have come with shouts of joy,

to sing and to make music to the Lord.

One: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth

***Hymn #267** *“Come, Christians Join to Sing”*

***Prayer of Confession:**

One: The proof of God’s amazing love is this:

That while we were sinners, Christ died for us.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God

and one another. Let us pray...

All: O God, you are like a weaver in our lives.

Out of our expanding energy and creation

you have spun each of us into a unique, colorful

strand with our own special hue and texture.

Then you have woven us together into a single

family that blankets the globe.

We admit that we have too often

rent the fabric of your design.

**We have allowed ourselves to be bound
by narrow contexts.**

**Open our hearts,
so that we may once again celebrate the wonder
of the human fabric and see the dignity of all.**

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

***The Assurance of Pardon**

One: Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have died.

**All: For since death came through a human being,
the resurrection of the dead
has also come through a human being.**

One: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel!

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Celebration of Our Pardon**

Hymn #233 "*The Day of Resurrection!*" (verse 1)

***The day of resurrection! Earth tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, From this world to the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over, With hymns of victory.***

***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: Genesis 18:1-15 Hebrews 13:1-5

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon *“Entertaining Angels Unaware”*

***Hymn** #754 *“Help Us Accept Each Other”*

***Affirmation of Faith** -from *A Declaration of Faith*

God created human beings with a need for community.

**We believe that we have been created
to relate to God and to each other
in freedom and responsibility.**

**We believe that God gives us and demands of us
lives that recognize all people in all cultures as our
neighbors on this planet.**

**Christ teaches us to go beyond legal requirements
in serving and helping our neighbor,
to treat our neighbors needs as our own,
to care passionately for the other’s good,
and to share what we have.**

**We are obligated to speak the truth in love,
to listen with patience and openness,
to love our enemies,
and to accept the risk and pain which love involves.**

**Constrained by God’s love in Christ,
we have good hope for all people. Amen**

Reception of Tithes & Offerings

***Offertory Response**

Hymn #233 *“The Day of Resurrection!”* (verse 3)

*Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin;
The round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.*

***Offertory Prayer**

The Pastoral Prayer and 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.

***Hymn #744** *“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”*

***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

Volunteers This Morning:

Greeter: Brenda Reiter

Ushers: Lee and Marcia Rash

Lay leader: Grant Tiefenbruck

Volunteers Next Sunday, September 17:

Greeter: Jon and Sonia Christian

Ushers: Dennis and Margaret Brown

Lay leader: Karen Altpeter

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.

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.