

First Presbyterian Church

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

Work is not our punishment.

It is our reward
and our strength
and our pleasure.

George Sand

The Order of Worship

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

September 17, 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: Building and Creating God,
you call us to be your Beloved Community.

For the jobless and unemployed...

**All: May they find encouragement
and the path forward.**

One: For the undocumented worker
who stays in the shadows of society.

All: May they find light and care.

One: For working parents, as they balance their careers
with caring for their children and their parents....

All: May they find serenity and supportive employers.

One: For those who work in unsafe working conditions....

All: May they be provided the tools to overcome them.

One: For those who do not have health care
or a living wage....

**All: May we continue to fight
for all our brothers and sisters.**

One: For those returning from incarceration....

All: May they find new beginnings.

One: For those graduating from high school and college....

**All: May they find solid ground
upon which to build their dreams.**

(continued...)

One: For the voices of all workers,
a voice of dignity and empowerment and fairness...

**All: May their collective voice be your voice
as we strive to create
your Beloved Community for all.**

One: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth

***Hymn #730** *“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”*

***Prayer of Confession:**

One: On this day let us lift up all people who labor,
either for pay or as volunteers,
in jobs or at school, at home or in the workplace,
in the U.S. and around the world.

Let us pray for ourselves and for each of them.
Let us pray...

**All: God of Grace, you have gifted us with a world of
abundance; a land of plenty;
a country where all can have enough.
We come before you this day to thank you for this
prosperity we have enjoyed and to repent from our
apparent inability to share this wealth.
We declare our own complicity in systems that
sustain some of us, while forsaking many others.
You hear the cry of the poor.
And you listen to those who do without,
while so many spend recklessly
and our leaders invest the wealth of the nation
in instruments of destruction.
We come before you to seek your forgiveness,
even as we pray for your justice.
Hear our prayers.
Touch our hearts that we may be faithful witnesses
and effective voices for justice.
God of mercy, hear our prayer.**

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

***The Assurance of Pardon**

One: Our God is a God of grace and transformation.

All: When we ask, God gives us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary.

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ, by grace through faith, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***Celebration of Our Pardon**

Hymn #581 *“Glory Be to the Father!”*

*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.*

***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: Ecclesiastes 1 and 2 (*selected verses*)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon *“Our Work – God’s Call”*

***Hymn #644** *“Give Thanks, O Christian People”*

***Affirmation of Faith** -adapted from “A Declaration of Faith”
and John Calvin’s *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

**We affirm that God bids each of us,
in all of life’s actions, to look to God’s holy calling.
God has assigned each of us distinct duties.
All our actions are judged by God,
and often in a very different way from the way that
humans would judge them.
God sends us into the world, regardless of our assignment,
to strive for justice, to work for peace,
to exercise compassion,
and to live according to Christ’s teaching.
Christ calls each of us to serve as he has served us. Amen.**

Reception of Tithes & Offerings

***Offertory Response**

Hymn #609 *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

***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 #761** *“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”*

***Charge and Blessing**

***Response**

Hymn #700 *“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”*
(stanzas 1 & 2)

*I’m gonna live so God can use me,
anywhere Lord, anytime! (sing 2x)*
*I’m gonna work so God can use me,
anywhere Lord, anytime! (sing 2x)*

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: Jon and Sonia Christian

Ushers: Dennis and Margaret Brown

Lay leader: Karen Altpeter

Volunteers Next Sunday, September 24:

Greeter: Karen Altpeter

Usher: Mary Crawmer

Lay leader: Dave Hume

Prayer Requests/Prayer Chain: Prayer requests can be written on the blue cards found at the ushers stand. 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

Contribute to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is on the ground in both Texas and Florida, not only helping congregations and their members, but reaching out through those congregations to the larger communities they serve. PDA provides emergency support in the days immediately following the disaster, and remains in the communities for months and years to come to help families rebuild and begin life again. **Our congregation will receive a special offering today to support the work of PDA.** If you have not come prepared to give today, you may send or bring your gift to the church in the next two weeks to be included.

Come hear news of the Christian church in the Middle East.

Join with other Hastings PC members to hear Elmarie Parker, Presbyterian Mission Partner in the Middle East who will be speaking at Oak Grove PC on **Wednesday, September 20, 6:15-7:15 PM.** Elmarie will lead a discussion regarding current conditions in the region where they work and live, along with how these conditions (including ISIS) are impacting PCUSA

Partners and their continuing work of worship and ministry. Though there is much over which to be deeply concerned, there are also stories of hope to be heard and shared. Bring your questions and come ready to hear the witness received first hand from local church leaders on the ground in these areas of conflict and chaos. Rev. Elmarie Parker serves as a Presbyterian Church (USA) Associate for Ecumenical Partnerships in the role of Regional Liaison to Church Partners in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon. Dinner is served at Oak Grove PC from 5:45 pm on for a small donation; tacos will be the menu on the 20th.

Those interested in going can meet at the church at 5:15 pm to carpool to Oak Grove church. For more information, contact Pastor Steve.

Adult Bible Study – Begins Sunday, October 1st at 9:30 am
Pastor Steve will be leading a topical adult bible study on Sunday mornings during the month of October, beginning at 9:30 am. These 45-minute times of conversation will be an opportunity to deepen our connection with scripture in light of contemporary issues. Watch and listen for more detailed information in the weeks to come. And let Pastor Steve know some of the current issues that may be on your mind these days that you would like to see considered in the study time.

Our Mission:

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