

September 29, 2024  
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
11:00am — Sanctuary



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

## Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

**Thank you for joining us today!** We're grateful for your presence and invite you to take part in our worship, mission, and programs. Please join us after worship for coffee, cookies, and punch in our fellowship hall, called McKay Hall. Just follow the crowd, and you cannot miss it! Livestreaming is available to watch via the website or YouTube, but we know this is no substitute for the community built through in-person connections. We're glad you're here!

Rev. Dr. Anne Epling (*she/her*), Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (*she/her*)

Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An (*he/him*), Rev. Ann Pitman (*she/her*)

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Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal Online. CCLI Copyright: 2801108; Streaming: 21661340.*

**Please silence and put away your cellphone as you enter this worship space.**

*\*Those who are able, please stand*

**Congregation responds in bold**

## COMING TOGETHER

### Prelude

Tranquillo  
Andantino

C. Hubert H. Parry  
Harold E. Darke

### Tolling of the Hour

### Greeting

### Call to Worship

The enemy:

**love them**

The oppressor:

**walk the mile with them**

The Master:

**turn the other cheek to them**

This doormat faith seems too much to bear in a world where those who bully always seem to win.

The enemy:

**imbalance them with love**

The oppressor:

**shame the law that oppresses**

The Master:

**turn the cheek as an equal**

This rebellious faith seems too much to bear in a world where those who bully are loved back to justice by the bullied, but this is heaven's revolution and we are called into it. Come let us worship love's rebel, Jesus.

**\*Hymn No. 340** This Is My Song

FINLANDIA

**\*Confessing Our Sins Against God and One Another**

**Heavenly Father, we call upon you in Jesus' name. We come with empty hands. We have not been able to love our enemies. As a rule we have never even seen them. We have avoided them. When we saw them, we felt only fear and anger, not love. So we come to you, not as the children of your love, but as the enemy of our enemies, beseeching you for ourselves and all the others; Bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you.**

**Forgive us for what we have failed to do for our enemies. You lead us out of the constriction of fear and out of the prison of hate, into the wide space of freedom. Let us see your sun, which rises upon the evil and the good, and rejoice in its warmth, together with our enemies. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

**\*Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*As you are comfortable, we invite you to take a moment to share the Peace of Christ with those around you with a smile, wave, or other signs of connection.*

\*Responsive Hymn No. 205 Live in Charity

UBI CARITAS (Taizé)

The image shows a musical score for a responsive hymn. It consists of four staves. The first two staves are for the vocal line, with lyrics: "Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love. U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,". The last two staves are for the piano accompaniment, with lyrics: "Live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you. u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est." The music is in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The piano part features a steady bass line and chords, with a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand in the final measure.

## PROCLAIMING REALLY GOOD NEWS

### **Time with Children & Moment for Mission**

*Children and youth in kindergarten thru 9th grade are encouraged to head to Sunday School after the Time with Children*

### **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Old Testament Reading**

A Word of God for our times.

**Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

### **Anthem O Jesus, I Have Promised**

Myron D. Casner

### **Gospel Reading**

A Word of God for our times.

**Thanks be to God!**

Luke 6:27-38

### **Sermon "You've Got To Be Kidding Me"**

Rev. Dr. Annie Bain Epling

## **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in the God of boundless love,  
who calls us to love our enemies,  
to do good to those who hate us,  
to bless those who curse us,  
and to pray for those who mistreat us.

We believe in the God of grace and mercy,  
who teaches us to turn the other cheek,  
to give freely without expecting anything in return,  
and to treat others as we would have them treat us.

We believe in the God of compassion,  
whose mercy is not limited to the deserving,  
but overflows to all just as the rain falls and the sun shines on all people.

We believe in the God of justice,  
who calls us to be merciful,  
just as we have received mercy,  
and to forgive, just as we have been forgiven.

In this love, grace, and mercy, we are rooted.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit, we seek to follow Christ,  
who shows us the way to be children of the Most High. Amen.

## **RESPONDING WITH ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVES**

\*Hymn No. 345 In an Age of Twisted Values

CHURCH UNITED

### **Announcements**

#### **Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

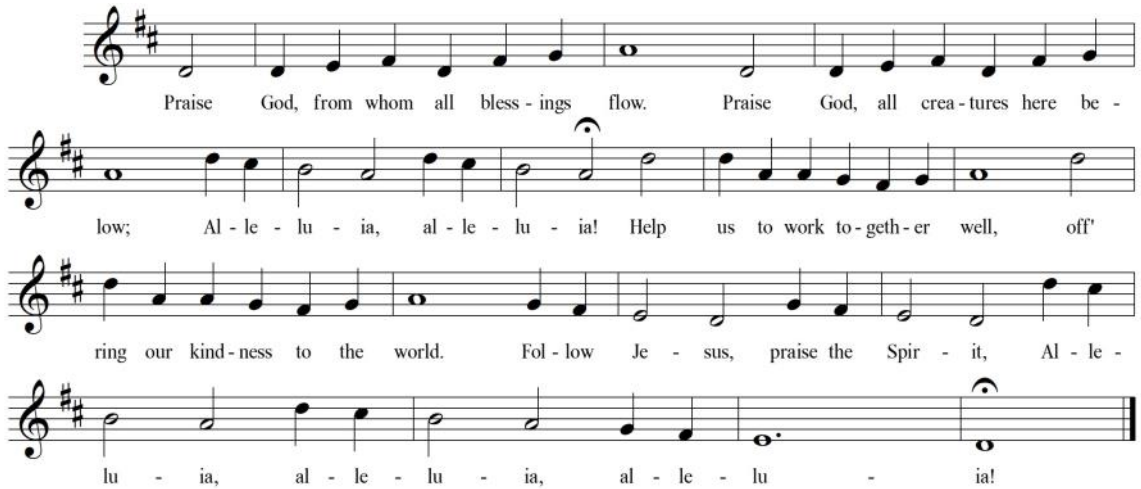
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Invitation to the Offering

Offertory He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Moses Hogan

\*Responsive Hymn Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures here be -  
low; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Help us to work to - geth - er well, off -  
ring our kind - ness to the world. Fol - low Je - sus, praise the Spir - it, Al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

\*Prayer of Dedication

Loving and merciful God, you call us to love as you love and to give as freely as we have received. Take these gifts, offered in faith, and use them to bring healing where there is hurt and hope where there is despair. May they be signs of your mercy, poured out generously on all. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

## RIPPLING FORTH

\*Hymn No. 383 Dream On, Dream On

DREAM ON

\*Benediction

\*Postlude Tuba Tune in D Major

Craig Seller Lang

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving honor of our Church family  
by Judy and Tom Mettler

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## Assisting with Worship this Morning

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**Pastors:** Rev. Dr. Anne Epling, Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

**Elders of the Month/Greeters:** Tony Borton, Vernell Fettig

**Ushers:** Anne Barnett, David Beer, Jack Patton, Dan Serban

**Candlelighters:** Penny Pulz, Arthur Satter

**Director of Music Ministries & Organist:** Brent Neuenschwander

**Assistant Organist:** Kathryn Miller

**Soloist:** John Tibbetts, Baritone

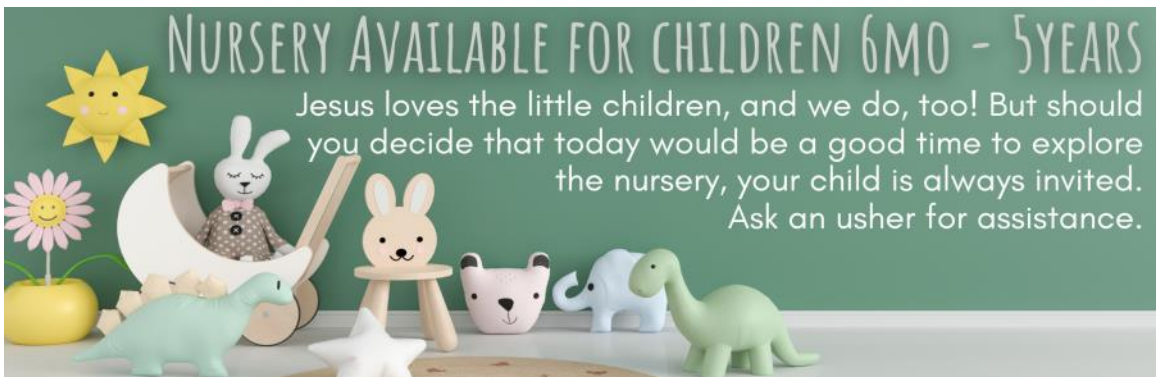
**Guest Pianist:** Raymond Chenault

**Chancel Choir**

**Live Stream Operator:** Dick Florea

**Sound Board Operator:** Jeff Slater

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**Sunday School for Children and Youth meets during church. We'll all start in worship together, and then head to our SS rooms as a group. Grown-ups, please pick your children up in the education wing after worship.**



## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRES

- ◆ Today at 2:00pm is the first **Music Series Concert** of the fall. John Tibbits and Victoria Isernia will sing a concert entitled, *Broadway, Spirituals, and More!* and will be accompanied on the piano by Raymond Chenault. Come enjoy a wide variety of music as we seek to *Enrich Our Faith Through the Arts*.
- ◆ **It's stewardship season**, and we hope you'll make a pledge to the "Five for Our Future: Investing in Our Mission" initiative on Sunday, October 6. As the Kesters said in their remarks:
  - We know that throughout this community there are many people like us who are searching for a community that will accept, incorporate and love them.
  - We know that there are many people looking for a faith community they can trust to be truthful and sincere in teaching Christian discipleship.
  - We know that there are many people who want to serve the community and give of themselves to make our world a better place now and in the future...like First Pres is striving to do.

We can only imagine what God is calling us at First Pres to do in 2025 and beyond. And, we know that a 5% increase in giving by each of us can make a great difference right here, right now and lead us one step father into the future that God is offering us today.

We hope you will join us by making a 5% [or more!] increase in your pledge for 2025 as an investment in our future.

- ◆ **World Communion Sunday** is next Sunday, October 6. Like last time, we'll gather around the table for communion, food and fellowship in McKay Hall at the end of worship. You don't need to bring a thing! Your staff is taking care of it all.

*Hearing Loop: To use the "Hearing Loop" during the service, please switch your hearing aid or cochlear device to the "T," T-Coil or telephone position.*

*Large Print Hymns are available from the Ushers*

*Today's Prayer of Confession was written by Jurgen Moltmann, in a sermon entitled "Revolutionary Love of our Enemies" in the Power of the Powerless*