



*Sunrise, Margret Hofheinz-Döring, 1991, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

8 August 2021  
11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

*Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes covenant with all believers, First Presbyterian Church intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity, economic or educational status, or political affiliation.*

# Order of Worship

## **Prayer of Preparation**

*God of the storm's still eye:  
when we are overwhelmed by pressures and demands  
which cut us off from life, take us to a place apart  
where we might find again our true heart's center,  
our far horizon, the silence that awaits  
a world where we can breathe;  
through Jesus Chris, who brings us near to you. Amen.*

## **Welcome**

## **Chiming of the Trinity**

**Prelude**            *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*            Held

**Introit**            *When Morning Gilds the Skies*    German/Barnby

## **\*Call to Worship**

Jesus said:

**"I am the bread that came down from heaven."**

Jesus said:

**"Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father  
comes to me"**

Jesus said:

**"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to be will never  
be hungry."**

Jesus said:

**"Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."**

**Let us worship God!**

**\*Hymn 722**    *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*    Havergal/  
Schumann

## **Confession**

**God, you have called us to live lives worthy of the calling to  
which we have been called. But we confess to you and each  
other that we have not always spoken the truth in love; we  
have not always made every effort to maintain the unity of**

**the Spirit in the bond of peace. Forgive us, and by your grace, help us to grow in every way into him who is our head, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

### **Summary of the Law**

Matthew 22:37-39

**“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Lesson**

Psalm 130

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Anna Straight

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

from the Confession of 1967

**God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God’s love.**

### **Anthem**

*Bread of Life from Heaven*

Briehl/Argentina

### **Joys and Concerns of the Congregation**

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Linda Palmer to the glory of God and in memory of Richard James Palmer and Lt. Col. Benjamin James Palmer.*

# Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

## Benediction

### Postlude

*O God Beyond All Praising*

Lasky

**If you have not already done so, please place your offering in the marked basket nearest the exit you use. We look forward to seeing you again next week.**

Liturgist: The Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

**Liturgy Notes:** The prayer of preparation is from Steven Shakespeare, "Prayers for an Inclusive Church." (New York: Church Publishing, 2009). Used by Permission. The prayer of confession is reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2015.

**Music notes:** Today's postlude was "commissioned by Market Street Presbyterian Church, Lima, Ohio, for the celebration of its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, August 24, 2008." The tune is "Thaxted" by Gustav Holst (1874-1934), "adapted in 1921 from the central section of 'Jupiter' from *The Planets* for the words, "I Vow to Thee, My Country" by Sir Cecil Spring Rice (1859-1918). This is the text often heard at the Olympics. The words, "O God Beyond All Praising" (c1982), were written for this tune by Englishman Michael Arnold Perry (1942-1996).

O God beyond all praising,  
We worship you today  
And sing the love amazing  
That songs cannot repay.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Library Overflow - Free Books**

Due to generous donations this spring and summer by several First Presbyterian members and friends who were down-sizing or moving away, the William Lee Hawkins Library here at church has a significant supply of duplicate or not library appropriate books to offer to the congregation for their personal use. Weather permitting, a table will be set up in the courtyard between the 8:30 and the 11:00 services on Sunday, August 1st and Sunday, August 8th. Stop by and select for your late summer reading pleasure and edification. In case of rain, we will be in the front hall of the Ministry Center instead.

### **Church Membership**

Whether you have been worshiping with First Presbyterian for one Sunday or one hundred, we'd welcome the opportunity to talk with you about what it means to be a part of a church community-what it might mean for you to take the joyful, faithful step of becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church.

To help facilitate these conversations we have scheduled classes to be held on September 12 and 19 during the Sunday School hour with the opportunity to join and be welcomed in worship on the 19<sup>th</sup> (at 11:00) or the 26<sup>th</sup> (at 8:30).

If these dates don't work for you, please get in touch with Anna so we can add you to the list for the next time we have these gatherings or so we can meet and find a pathway and timeline that works for you ([anna@firstpresnb.org](mailto:anna@firstpresnb.org) or 252-637-3270).

### **Presbyterian Women**

The Presbyterian's Women's Kick-off Luncheon will be held on August 22, in the Session House, after the 11:00 church service. All women are invited! You do not have to be a member of a church circle to attend. No reservation is needed, and the cost is free. Come enjoy fellowship with Presbyterian ladies, some of whom you may not have seen in over a year! You will be given the opportunity to join a circle if you are interested. Meetings will begin in September and the 2021-2022 study will be: "What My Grandmothers Taught Me."

## **Nametags**

As more and more of the congregation is returning to worship in person after not seeing one another in quite a while AND to help Anna become acquainted with the congregation, we want to encourage everyone to get in the habit of wearing your nametags again! If you have misplaced yours, Marcy, our Office Administrator is happy to make you another one (marcy@firstpresnb.org). There is a board in the Narthex where you can leave your nametag at the end of the service, and it will be waiting for you the next Sunday.

## **Welcoming Tip of the Month**

Our church has a large campus with a number of buildings, and people approach the center of the campus from several different directions. This can be confusing for anyone who isn't familiar with the buildings. We are working on improving signage so that directions are easier to understand, but sometimes YOU can lend a hand. If you see people looking puzzled, ask if you can help. If they are receptive, then lead, don't tell. It's easy enough to walk with them toward their destination--plus you have another brief opportunity to connect!

*First Presbyterian Church identifies itself as a welcoming community of faith and intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. The Welcoming Committee over the months will be offering you tips to strengthen the hospitality of our congregation.*

## **Flower Calendar**

The flower calendar is now filled until the end of December! Many thanks to all who have signed up to provide flowers for the church. The calendar for 2022 is now included in the folder for anyone who wants to save a date for the future!

## **Nursery Open**

The nursery has reopened for the 11am service (from 10:30am-noon) for children, infants through second grade.

### **Adult Sunday school class “The Present Word”**

George Evans is leading "The Present Word class: Call in the New Testament". The class meets IN PERSON Sunday morning 9:40-10:40am in the Session House Parlor. Please contact George Evans (gkevans4@gmail.com) with questions. The book is available in the church office.

### **African Jewelry Making Workshop**

Arts to End Genocide (ATEG) and Faith Connection will have a workshop in African Jewelry Making on Saturday, August 21, in the First Presbyterian Church J. Murphy Smith Center gymnasium. There will be two sessions (limit 125 each); 12:30-2:00 and 2:30-4:00. Reservations are recommended: 252-481-4772. This event is not recommended for children under 12 years of age. Participants will receive a free packet of beads and materials to make a bracelet and/or earrings. Additional packets and/or individual beads will be available for purchase. This event is a benefit to help fund the relocation of 500 children out of a garbage dump in Bamako, Mali, West Africa, to a safer and healthier location.

### **Food 4 U**

Our Food 4 U program has been restarted and is ready to go. The only thing we need is food FROM you! Food 4 U is (will be) available to be picked up anytime for your family or someone you know who needs it. There is a freezer in the Session House kitchen and containers in the pantry there. Take a container home for the next time you have extra soup, casserole or whatever and bring it in. Labels are also provided. Thank you for thinking of and caring for each other in this way! Questions? Call Polly Frank, 703-927-4626.

**Notes:**