



Cover photo by Asher Gano

6th Sunday of Easter
Youth Sunday

May 14, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship



In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, 'We are his offspring.'

Acts 17:28

First Presbyterian Church

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MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT: REV. DR. SANDRA R. TICE

MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT: REV. DR. STEPHEN SMITH

COMMISSIONED LOCAL PASTOR: DR. WENDY L. LAMB

PASTOR EMERITUS: REV. JAMES C. HUFFSTUTLER

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: CURTISS ALLEN, JR., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC;

WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST; AMY GANO, BELLS

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

This service is being **livestreamed** and can be viewed on our YouTube channel in real time or as a recording. **Large-print copies of this order of service**, as well as **audio enhancement devices** are available **from the ushers**.

We gather on Sunday for 3 reasons:

- **To seek God**- whom we find in sacred text and sacrament, in music and in song, in prayer, in the beauty of this space, in the stillness where we can hear our hearts. We offer God our thanks and praise, our lament and longing, and our resources. We let go of burdens and receive grace and forgiveness. We see the One our hearts love.
- **To practice Community** – rejoice w/those who rejoice, weep w/those who weep. To break bread with those whom we love and those whom we need to love more fully. We practice things our culture does not emphasize: resting, forgiving, sharing. Jesus asked us to love one another as he loved us, and we cannot do so without practice.
- **To listen for our Call**- often an invitation to go out and be or do or remember. God is speaking all the time: through conscience, nature, friends, and certainly scripture. We gather to listen for that Call and to recommit ourselves to discipleship.

Information on our common life can be found on our website www.fpcsb.net, along with sermons and newsletters. You can participate in our work by supporting us financially with a one-time or sustaining donation.

Children are **welcome** in worship. Younger children may go to the Nursery at any time.

OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Sunday, June 4th.

Morning Worship†

Worship Leaders:

Maddie Ramirez, Asher Gano, Kendra Lamb, Breanna Nord,
Owen Morris, Oliver Lamb, Joshua Fletcher, Rowan Fletcher

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

I believe God wants us to look out for those in a less fortunate predicament than ourselves. I pledge to prioritize my assistance to those in need. *From Maddie Ramirez' Statement of Faith, 2021*

ENERGIZER

Brandon, Asher, Maddie

WELCOME

Asher

PRELUDE

Minuet in F Major

Kendra

*CALL to WORSHIP

Maddie

Please stand as you are able. Let us call one another to worship.

God, we come before you as

✘ **Sheep no longer following blindly**

Cats independent but still part of your family

✘ **Dogs faithful to our master, always praising.**

As the bee pollinates flowers to make fruit

✘ **You come into our lives to make us whole**

You are the only one who can herd stray cats and gather us in the world

✘ **We praise and worship you, God of all**

*HYMN 487

These Treasured Children

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*PRAYER of ADORATION

Kendra

Please remain standing for the Prayer of Adoration.

Risen Christ you have nurtured us, you've taught us compassion

You are the mother who watches over us and cares for us

You are the fun uncle who teaches us joy

You are the sister who brings color to our lives

You are the brother who shares

You are the aunt who brings stability to the family life

† The symbols you will see in this order of worship mean:

* **Stand if you are able**

✘ **The congregation will read.**

You are the cousin who is a best friend
 You are the father who teaches us how to drive
 You are the grandmother who teaches us your library of knowledge
 You are the grandfather who brings us wisdom
 ✘ We are your family who give thanks and worship you.

***ALLELUIA**

William Zeitler

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Owen

Almighty God,
 As the light of your word shines on us,
 Help our eyes see it
 Help our ears hear it
 Help our hearts absorb it
 And open us up to your wisdom
 ✘ Amen

SCRIPTURE

Acts 17:27-31

Breanna

Paul is speaking to the people of Athens on Mars Hill.

“God made the nations so they would seek him, perhaps even reach out to him and find him. In fact, God isn’t far away from any of us. In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, ‘We are his offspring.’ Therefore, as God’s offspring, we have no need to imagine that the divine being is like a gold, silver, or stone image made by human skill and thought. God overlooks ignorance of these things in times past, but now directs everyone everywhere to change their hearts and lives. This is because God has set a day when he intends to judge the world justly by a man he has appointed. God has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

Colossians 3:12-17

Joshua

Paul is writing to the people of Colossae.

Therefore, as God’s choice, holy and loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each

other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other. And over all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. The peace of Christ must control your hearts—a peace into which you were called in one body. And be thankful people. The word of Christ must live in you richly. Teach and warn each other with all wisdom by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing to God with gratitude in your hearts. Whatever you do, whether in speech or action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through him.

John 14:15-21

Oliver

Jesus is speaking to his disciples shortly before the events of his death.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. I will ask the Father, and he will send another Companion, who will be with you forever. This Companion is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world can’t receive because it neither sees him nor recognizes him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be with you.

“I won’t leave you as orphans. I will come to you. Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them loves me. Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✦ **Thanks be to God.**

A READING

We Have Seen Jesus

Maddie

Ann Weems

Today we hear another perspective on the people we have been discussing throughout Eastertide as they see Christ and learn how to live into new life.

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

Breanna & Rowan

We offer our tithes and gifts to be part of God’s purposes in the world, and we invite you to take part. You may bring forward your gifts and place them in the plate. You may always send gifts by mail or online.

OFFERTORY

Owen

PRAYER of DEDICATION

Joshua

God, we are your children
Whom you have nurtured
And we are now giving our gifts to you
In these offerings ✦ **Amen**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE, OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Asher & Owen

Lord, in your mercy,

✠ receive our prayer.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus whose prayer we pray together

✠ **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.**

***HYMN 488** *I Was There to Hear Your Borneing Cry*

WATERLIFE

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

Brandon & Rowan

***CHARGE and BLESSING**

Maddie

POSTLUDE

Asher

*All liturgy and prayers in this service were written by the youth
except the Morning prayer.*

*We are grateful to William Zeitler for his musical accompaniment,
and to John-Paul Fletcher and Wendy Lamb for their help in our
preparations.*

GREETERS: Mindy Rueda, Amy Rueda

USHERS: Mark Adelson, *Lead Usher*

Chris Thomas, Brad Smith, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK
Sandy Garza, Sally Inglis, Josie Short
Elders: John-Paul Fletcher, Jeanne Clark, Susan Skoglund
Deacons: Joanna Nord, Chris Wright-Thomas, Dan Direen

This Weeks' Celebrations

May 14 Carol Coyne
May 15 Lynn Usher
May 16 Jim Babcock
May 17 Sharon Louise Landeros
Wanda Skipper
Tim & Lynn Usher

Symphonie Jeunesse will present a concert **this afternoon at 3:00 p.m.** in our Fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy the beautiful music presented by these extraordinary young people (who rehearse right here at our church!)

Tomorrow is the deadline for the June Edition of the ***First Press*** newsletter. Send your articles, photos, and other submissions to newsletter@fpcsb.net.

VOLUNTEER FOR HOSPITALITY. We have returned to serving coffee and tea and donuts for coffee hour after church, but we need volunteers to pick up the donuts, set up, serve and clean up. If you can help out with any of the tasks for this important ministry, please speak to Rick Rodriguez or Dave Thomas. Whether you want to do this once a month or once a year, your help is appreciated!

More news and announcements are available in your Friday *Keeping in Touch* emails. If you are not receiving these, and you would like to, contact Mimi in the church office.

The Music Box

The Tyndale Bible by William Tyndale (1494-1536) was the first translation of the New Testament from Greek into English. Tyndale was a heavyweight scholar, fluent in Greek, Hebrew, Latin, French, German, Italian, and Spanish, who studied at Oxford and Cambridge. At that time, translating the Bible into English was illegal, and in 1536 Tyndale was burned at the stake for this 'crime'. Three years later, in 1539, Henry VIII allowed English Bibles to be available in every parish church.

Fast forward four score or so years, and King James I (1566-1625) commissioned a translation of the entire Bible into English, now known as 'The King James Version' (1611). Tyndale had done such a magnificent job that the King James translation committee appropriated verbatim large swathes of Tyndale's work (around 80% in the New Testament).

Even modern translators have been hard pressed to improve on his turns of phrase: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you;" "Fight the good fight;" "Am I my brother's keeper?" "The salt of the earth;" "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak;" "Eat, drink and be merry;" "The sign of the times;" "A law unto themselves;" "The powers that be;" "Filthy lucre" and "The patience of Job," to name just a few.

One of Tyndale's primary goals was for his translation to be understandable by the masses. Replying to "a learned but blasphemous clergyman," Tyndale said: "if God spares my life, ere many years, I will cause the boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scriptures than thou dost!" Farm hands!

Given his goals, it's to be expected that he would use vivid and simple phraseology, which a few centuries later, with our better understanding of 1st century Palestine culture, we might translate a little differently. One of these is that Jesus was a 'carpenter' (Mk. 6:3) or 'the son of a carpenter' (Mt. 13:54-55). Which for us conjures up idyllic images of Joseph and young Jesus toiling away in dad's carpenter shop. But that's likely not the case. The Greek word here is **TEKTON** — one who builds, a handyman, a laborer. Wood was scarce in Palestine — stone was plentiful.

We are provided a clue about the Holy Family's economic status in Luke 2:22ff. According to Jewish practice, a sacrifice at the Temple was to be made on the birth of one's first male child. Generally it was supposed to be a lamb, but if you were too poor to afford that (which really wasn't all THAT costly), two turtledoves would suffice. (Lev. 12:8) Thus, since that's what Mary sacrificed, the Holy Family must have been very poor indeed. (It's proposed that the Magi, with their gold, frankincense and

myrrh, showed up AFTER this. Also, we don't know how much they brought: artists' imaginations depict big piles of gold, etc., but how much did they REALLY bring? Impossible to say.)

Meanwhile, Nazareth was little more than a wide spot in the road — our best estimates put the population at around 500. Hardly enough to support a "carpenter's shop." But a mere 4 miles away was Sepphoris — a major urban renewal pet project of Herod. It's easy to imagine Joseph and Jesus making the 1.5 hour walk to Sepphoris to pick up work — something like those guys in the Home Depot parking lot hoping you'll hire them. (Jesus has quite a few parables about day laborers, and 'the stone which the builders rejected...' None involving working with wood.)

Which to me aligns with Phil. 2:5-9, which has been suggested is the first Christian poem/hymn:

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name...

The thrust of this passage is that Jesus humbled Himself to the very bottom of the social hierarchy (slave). A reasonably well paying blue-collar carpenter job doesn't quite fit this. A day laborer hanging out at Home Depot in the hopes of supporting his family certainly does. (In those days there was no welfare, no food stamps, nothing for the poor.)

After Jesus youth, there is no mention of Joseph at all. Did he die? Then it would have fallen to Jesus — the oldest son — to support Mary and his siblings. The New Testament says six brothers and sisters. Some say this was metaphorical — that Jesus had no biological siblings. Either way, without Joseph, Mary would have needed support — women couldn't "get jobs" in those days. A dutiful Jewish son would of course have taken care of his mother.

--William Zeitler