

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 20, 2020

10:00 a.m.

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

"Prelude in F"

J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

Psalm 105:1-2

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's name.

***Make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples.***

Sing to the Lord, sing praises.

***Speak of all God's marvelous works.***

Hymn 263

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

- 1 All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!
- 2 Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!  
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
- 3 Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball  
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!  
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!
- 4 O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

***Merciful God, we confess that we are unworthy servants.***

***We have broken faith with you in thought and word and deed.***

***We are ashamed of the evil that dwells within us,***

***and we confess that our very best falls far short of your vision for us.***

***Forgive our sin, for Jesus' sake,***

***and restore us to fellowship with you and all your holy ones. Amen.***

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

## First Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

## A Moment with Our Children

### Gospel Lesson: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said, "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Sermon: "Life is Unfair"

Rev. Carter

*Fall Sermon Series: The Ornerly Parables of Christ*

## **RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

Hymn 435

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.  
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.  
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

2 For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,  
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.***

Minute for Peace and Global Witness Offering  
Offering

Meg Hatch

Offertory

"Though I May Speak"  
Bell Choir

arr. Kevin McChesney

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

## **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

Hymn 724

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;  
be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend;  
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.
- 2 O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near:  
I see the sights that dazzle; the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer and shield my soul from sin.
- 3 O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.
- 4 O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee  
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.  
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

Charge and Benediction  
Postlude

"Allegro"

John Blow arr. James D. Kimball

## Participants in Today's Service

Pastor  
Liturgist  
Coordinator for Children and Youth Ministries  
Director of Music  
Organist  
Director of Bell Choir

Rev. William Carter  
Jay Clymer  
Jana Schillinger  
Frank Jones  
Kay Ten Eyck  
Richard Cochrane

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### Church Family Announcements

*Welcome to worship! Our congregation intends to worship God, equips God's people for ministry in the world, and serves God in ways that are faithful to the Gospel.*

For those of us in the sanctuary today, there are some details to review in the hope that no virus will be spread due to this gathering.

- All are required to wear face masks, sit only in designated pews, and maintain six feet of distance from people of other households.
- You may participate in the spoken segments of the service, but please do not sing.
- If you would like to visit with other worshippers, do so after exiting the building.
- At present, we are limited to having 50 people in the sanctuary, including worship leaders. Notify the church office ([office@fpccs.org](mailto:office@fpccs.org) or 570-586-6306) by Friday noon when you plan to attend.

**We welcome all** to our worship today. **Please sign in at the Welcome Table.** (In the event of an infection, you will be contacted.)

**Tell us your prayer concerns.** **Prayer Request Cards** are available in the pews. They may be dropped in the offering plates as you enter or exit the sanctuary.

**St. Francis Clothing Center** is not receiving clothing at this time due to virus concerns. Please hold your clothing donations until a later date, or deposit in road-side collection boxes.

**Worship Through Service** is being held Saturday, September 19 and the weekend of September 26-27. More information is available at [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org).

The Arts at First Presbyterian Church  
is pleased to present

# Tyler Canonico

organist in concert

**Friday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m.**

Live concert in the sanctuary (limited to 50 seats)  
Free tickets available on Eventbrite

**Sunday, September 27 at 4:00 p.m.**

Re-broadcast on YouTube

More information at [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)



## This Week at a Glance

### Today

10:00AM

\* Morning Worship

Sanctuary

11:00

\* Led by Chris Norton, a conversation on the book,  
**“The Second Mountain: The Quest of a Moral Life.”**  
*(For those not interested in using **ZOOM**, this conversation  
is face-to-face, with masks and socially-distant seating.)*

Fellowship Hall

### Monday, September 21

7:00-8:00PM

**(Z)** A study on **Spiritual Practices**. Each week, download  
and read an article from “Light from the Hill.” Rev. Bill will  
lead a conversation each Monday through October 19.

**ZOOM**

### Tuesday, September 22

7:00PM

**(Z)** Deacon’s Meeting

**ZOOM**

### Wednesday, September 23

6:15-7:15PM

**(Z)** Rev. Carter will lead an exploration of the text  
for the upcoming sermon.

**ZOOM**

7:00 PM

\* Bell Choir Rehearsal

Sanctuary

### Thursday, September 24

### Friday, September 25

7:00PM

\* FPCCS Arts Series: Organ Recital with Tyler Canonico  
Audience limited to 50. Please use link on our website  
to make a reservation.

Sanctuary

