



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2024

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

FOR WORSHIP

In the gospel, Mark shares the story of a man who approaches Jesus asking how to receive eternal life. The man claims he has lived faithfully according to God's commands from his youth. Jesus looks on the man in love, and tells him to sell all he has, give it to the poor, and follow him. The man leaves sad, and Jesus says to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples in turn ask Jesus, "Who then can be saved?" And Jesus says to them, "With mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

We are glad to have you join us for worship. If you are new to First, it is our prayer that you will experience the presence of God while you are here. At First, it is our hope that all who enter find a home.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

In Thee is Gladness

Cantilena

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Joyce Beauvais, organist

Paul Manz

Raymond Haan

Hal Hopson

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Andrew Stuart

L: O God, you summon the day to dawn, you teach the morning to waken the earth.

P: For you the valleys shall sing for joy, the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

L: For you the kings of the earth shall bow, the poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy.

P: Your love and mercy shall last forever, fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.

L: Great is your name.

P: How majestic is God's name in all the earth!

*HYMN 420

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

3 Cure thy children's warring madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

In the presence of a holy God, we become aware of the ways we fall short of God's best hopes for us, and the ways we have hurt others. We turn to God in prayer, asking for forgiveness.

We express gratitude that through of himself on the cross we are forgiven and restored to God and one another.

Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient responses in worship. We invite you to share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

The sermon is a reflection on the day's scriptures, suggesting implications for our faith and life.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist Stuart

God of compassion, you asked for my hands, that you might use them for your purposes; I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard. You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice; I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused. You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty; I closed them, for I did not want to see. You asked for my life, that you might work through me; I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved. Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you – only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so. Inspire and empower me to better witness to your deep and abiding love. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

L: Friends, believe the good news.

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Gloria Patri – 579

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 and Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you!

We invite you to greet those around you, wishing them "peace" or "the peace of Christ."

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Puppet Ministry

ANTHEM *God That Madest Earth and Heaven* (Tune: *All Through the Night*) Welsh Hymn/arr. David Thorne

God that madest earth and heaven, darkness, and light;

Who the day for toil has given, for rest and night.

May thine angel guards defend us, slumber sweet thy mercy send us,

Holy dreams and hopes attend us, this livelong night.

Deep the silence round us spreading, all through the night;

Dark the path that we are treading, all through the night.

Still the coming day discerning, by the hope within us, burning,

To the dawn our footsteps turning, all through the night.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Liturgist Stuart

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust your Word and to receive the gifts of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Hebrews 4: 12-16 (page 220 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Stuart

Mark 10: 17-31 (selected verses page 46 in pew Bible)

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

L. This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

A precondition for justice

Rev. Dr. Robert Martin

*HYMN 388

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ANGEL'S STORY

**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.

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Martin

Choral Response #585: *The congregation is invited to sing along with the chancel choir.*

THE OFFERING/OFFERTORY

What Our God Ordains
Joyce Beauvais, organist

Weimar Gesangbuch

*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Liturgist Stuart

Gracious donor of our days, your grace has touched and transformed our lives. In gratitude we now dedicate our money, time, and commitment to your service. May our offerings further your compassion, justice, and peace for all our neighbors, your people; through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*HYMN 356

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;

On behalf of the congregation, the Pastor expresses the corporate prayers of the congregation. These prayers are for world, local and personal concerns.

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.

here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Choral Response #586: *The congregation is invited to sing along with the chancel choir.*

POSTLUDE

O for a Thousand Tongues
Joyce Beauvais, organist

Paul Manz



Deacon of the Month of October - Mary Costello

740.592.3444 - mcostello@hotmail.com - *A friend to phone with joys or concerns*

Chancel Prep: Kim Jordan

Ushers: Kim Jordan and Helen King

Fellowship Hour



Women's Book Study - Join the Women's Book Study on Fridays at noon via Zoom, as we discuss *Beguiled by Beauty: Cultivating a Life of Contemplation and Compassion* by Wendy Farley. For more information or to join, please contact the church office at 740-593-3351 or Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org

Presbyterian Women - We will meet October 16th for Bible Study, 10:00 a.m., at The Plains Public Library. Study title is *What Our Grandmothers Taught Us*. The focus is on what young Jesus might have felt as he heard about his family, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. For more information, call Martha Johnson at (740) 677-0034. Everyone is welcome!

Organ Recital - Our own Janice Robison will present an organ recital on Sunday, October 20th, immediately following the worship service. The program will be a musical journey through the Liturgical church year-Advent to Pentecost. All are invited to stay for this half hour recital.

Habitat For Humanity will hold a scrap metal drive at the Athens County Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 19th, 9-1:00 p.m. Car batteries will be accepted; items with freon will not be accepted. Remember to mark your calendars for the November 9th Habitat For Humanity rummage sale at Christ The King Church. See Danny Moates for further details on these events.

ANTI-RACISM SUNDAY, OCT. 20, 2024. As a Jesus Christ movement for unity, justice, and peace, the Ohio Council of Churches invites congregations to participate in the 4th annual Anti-Racism Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024. This year's theme is Dismantling Racism – Building Community. Anti-Racism Sunday is an opportunity for congregations to publicly declare during their Sunday morning worship services that racism is a sin incompatible with God's vision for humanity. Together we are equipped to:

- AWAKEN ourselves to the truth that racism is ever-present, deeply rooted in American culture, and profoundly damaging to our communities;
 - CONFRONT racism, speak truth to ourselves, our communities and institutions, and stand against injustice; and
 - TRANSFORM the hearts, minds, and behaviors of people and structures that shape society.
- The late James Baldwin once said, "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." As empowered by the Holy Spirit, together we will face racism and work to dismantle it in all of its forms.



Minister: Rev. Dr. Robert E. Martin

Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart

CE Coordinators: Richard and Joan Nease

Administrative Assistant: Debbie Perry

Organist: Janice Robison

Bell Choir Director: Anna Crum

Choir Director: Dr. David Tadlock



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Weekly Worship Service can be seen live on Sunday Morning

FPC's worship services can be found on YouTube channel here:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/athensfpc/search?query=sermon>

You can access them on the FPC YouTube channel and on the church web site under Worship Archive.