



# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### FOR WORSHIP

*In this morning's Scripture lesson from James, he reminds us that the great prophet Elijah was also human like us and whose example of faith should encourage us to pray for miracles in Jesus' name. Jesus himself encourages all to join in the good work of the Gospel, so that those who are on the fringes of faith might too come and receive salvation. There is a fierce warning not to impede this work but rather to labor together in peace with whomever God has brought together to build the Kingdom of Heaven.*

*\*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.*

*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.*

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### PRELUDE

*Intrada in G Major  
Variations on "Aurelia"  
Janice Robison, organist*

Charles Ore  
Janet Linker

#### WORDS OF WELCOME

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 19:7-8, 10)

Liturgist Richard Nease

*L: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;*

**P: the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;**

*L: the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;*

**P: the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;**

*L: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.*

#### \*HYMN 403

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

CONVERSE

**1 What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit;  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!**

**2 Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!**

**3 Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge;  
take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;  
thou wilt find a solace there.**

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist Nease

**You, O Lord, have given us so much, yet we demand more. You have provided us opportunities to love one another, to learn from one another, and to find joy; yet we look at what others have with envy or disappointment over our own lives. Forgive us our foolish ways. Turn us to the right so we hear and follow you. Allow our hearts to be turned from stone to flesh. Help us to serve the least, the lost, and most importantly, to serve you. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

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

**\*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**

Fairest Lord Jesus

Silesian Folk Song/arr. Martin How

Fairest Lord Jesus, Lord of all creation, Jesus of God and Mary the Son;

Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honour; O Thou my soul's delight and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the verdure and bloom of spring;

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes the saddest heart to sing.

Fair are the flowers, fairer still the sons of men, in all the freshness of youth arrayed;

Yet is their beauty fading and fleeting; my Jesus, Thine will never fade.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)**

Liturgist Nease

O God, calm our minds and our hearts so that as we listen to your Word, we hear the message you have for us – a message of your love and faithfulness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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

**SCRIPTURE** James 5: 13-20 (page 613 and 614 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Nease

Mark 9: 38-50 (page 45 in pew Bible)

Rev. Nice

L. This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

**SERMON**

You've Got the Power

Rev. Kathy Nice

**\*HYMN**

We Come to You for Healing, Lord 796

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of  
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and  
 3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through  
 4 Through nights of pain and wake - ful - ness, through  
 5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your  
 reached toward those in pain, we know you come a -  
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of  
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of  
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.  
 mong us still with power to heal a - gain.  
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.  
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.  
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

LAND OF REST

**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.

# RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Nice

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

### THE OFFERING/OFFERTORY

*Soul, Adorn Thyself With Gladness* -  
Janice Robison, organist

Theodore Beck

### \*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 Nease

Gracious God, you have blessed us in so many ways. We return to you now, from among those blessings, our first fruits. Bless our gifts that they may serve this community and the world in your name. Amen.

#### BLESSING OF THE

#### ANIMALS

Saturday,

October 5th

10:00 a.m.

West Side Park Pavilion

All mobile pets should be leashed or caged. If pets cannot be transported, stuffed animals or other reminders of your friends can be substituted.

### \*HYMN 264

*When In Our Music God Is Glorified*

ENGELBERG

1 When in our music God is glorified,  
and adoration leaves no room for pride,  
it is as though the whole creation cried:  
Alleluia!

2 How often, making music, we have found  
a new dimension in the world of sound,  
as worship moved us to a more profound  
Alleluia!

3 So has the church, in liturgy and song,  
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,  
borne witness to the truth in every tongue:  
Alleluia!

4 And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night  
when utmost evil strove against the light?  
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:  
Alleluia!

5 Let every instrument be tuned for praise!  
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!  
And may God give us faith to sing always:  
Alleluia!

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

### POSTLUDE

*Jubilee!*

Gilbert Martin

Janice Robison, organist

#### Deacon of the Month of September- Bobbi Conliffe

740.707.7461 - conliffb@ohio.edu - A friend to phone with joys or concerns

Chancel Prep: Ellen Sostarich

Ushers: Ellen Sostarich and Harold Robison

Fellowship Hour: Carolyn Allen

#### 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.

**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 resume Bible Study September 18th, 10:00 a.m., at The Plains Public Library. Study title for 2024-2025 is *Let Justice Roll: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creatures*. For more information, call Martha Johnson at (740) 677-0034. Everyone is welcome!

**The AFPC College Lunch** has resumed its fall schedule each Thursday. The organizers are once again reaching out to the church family to help with this local mission work. Whether you're willing to provide a main dish, usually soup or a casserole, or dessert, it will be welcomed by the staff and the students who dine with us. Please contact the office or Lee Gregg for more information- tleegregg@gmail.com

**The Music Ministry** here at First Presbyterian Church helps lead and deepen the congregation's worship experience. Our primary goal is to illuminate the word of God as it is read and preached. If you enjoy singing or ringing, there's something for everyone in the music ministry Our Bell Choir under the direction of Anna Crum meets each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Our Chancel Choir under the direction of Dr. David Tadlock meets each Wednesday beginning at 7:10 p.m. If you are interested in joining one of our Music Ministry groups, see either David or Anna.

**CROPwalk** falls on Sunday, October 6th. The people that are walking for you that day are: Margaret Bourke, Helen King, Darryl Markland, Carol Perry, Jan Robison, and Danny Moates. Each person has an envelope for receiving your donations to Church World Service and will deliver your donations to the walk on October 6th. It is okay to make donations to more than one walker. Thanks for your support.

**We welcome** to our pulpit this morning The Rev. Kathy Nice. Kathy comes to us from Pennsylvania, where she served as Stated Clerk of Kiskiminetas (Kiski) Presbytery and as a pastor to several churches over the years. She is a second-career Minister of Word and Sacrament, after working for 25 years in government service. She earned her MDiv at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and her MBA at Seton Hill University, where she was also adjunct faculty in the MBA program. Kathy has added skills in mediation and coaching, as well as Healthy Congregations (a family systems training) along the way. She led mandated reporter trainings throughout the Kiski presbytery. Kathy is serving as our Executive Presbyter, where she has helped implement changes to the presbytery structure to better meet the needs of the 21st century churches. She and her husband, Chris, are living in the Clintonville area with their four fur-kids (two dogs and two cats).

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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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