

## PRELUDE

### BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

#### WELCOME & SHARING OF CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

\*Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit.

**Bold text is spoken or sung by everyone.**

### WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

#### \*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Gather in awe before God, who laid the foundations of the earth.

Open your hearts to the steadfast love God offers.

**The deeds of God are beyond our knowing.**

**Yet we catch glimpses of God's mercy and care.**

God does not forsake us when we are dismayed and afraid.

Our Creator is with us in all times and places.

**God is a stronghold for the oppressed and troubled.**

**The needy and the poor are not forgotten.**

Open your hearts to receive new strength.

Open your lives to renewed understandings.

**Surely God will meet us here in our faith community**

**and will equip us to face our world.**

\*HYMN #370 "This is My Father's World"

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

God has called us, not to a set of beliefs but to a relationship of trust. We are drawn to the Spirit whose will for us is life at its fullest, attuned to all that is good and true. We forget our greatest source of help and hope. In these moments together, let us lay aside our doubts and fears and open our lives to God.

#### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Help us, God, for we do not have the wisdom to help ourselves. When we cannot hide from the evil that is all around us because some of it is also in us, we cry out for your saving mercy. We need you. We confess it is easier to see the problems than the promise. We have been more ready to complain than to accept your help. O God, we open our hearts to you.**

**SILENT CONFESSION TO GOD** *Silence is held for personal confession.*

Lord, hear our prayer, and change our lives until we illustrate the grace of the God who makes all things new. **Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

God has listened to us. In spite of all we have done or not done, God accepts us. This is a day of salvation when brokenness is healed and problems are seen in a new light. God's affection for us is limited only by our failure to respond. Accept the gift of God's love, for it is everything we need.

#### \*SONG OF ASSURANCE

#598 "Amen, We Praise Your Name" *(Sing twice)*

**Amen, we praise your name, O God! Sing praises!**

**Amen, we praise your name, O God! Sing praises!**

**Amen, amen. Amen, amen. Amen, we praise your name, O God!**

#### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. To this peace we were called as members of a single body. The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

#### UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Give us good ears, perchance you have a word for us this morning;**

**Give us grace and courage to listen, to answer, to care, and to rejoice,**

**that we may be more fully your people. Amen.**

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 22:1-5, 9-11, 23-24

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame... Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast. On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help... You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

#### RESPONSE

Let your word live within us, faithful God. **Day by day, night by night, in our thinking, our speaking, our doing, our believing.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Bourree I & II, Suite III"

*J.S. Bach*

Laurie Brubaker Davis, Cello

#### DISCOVERY TIME

VBS Day Camp Leaders

#### SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:1-5, 14, 16-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we

have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth... From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

#### RESPONSE

Heavenly words for earthly people. **Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Laurie Brubaker Davis

Preaching on Your Good Questions: (2<sup>nd</sup> of 3-Sermon Series)

*"What About Evil? Why Does the Wrong Seem 'Oft So Strong?'"*

#### TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

*Please let the bell tone help in your meditation and reflection. This is an ancient Christian monastic and Eastern meditation practice aid.*

\*HYMN #834 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

#### JOYS AND CONCERNS

*In order to preserve confidentiality, the sharing of joys and concerns portion of our service is limited to only those present in the sanctuary.*

We pray to the Lord...**Lord, hear our prayer.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hear our prayers, O Lord; **answer when we call.**

**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.**

#### A TIME FOR GENEROSITY

For Jesus, a life lived for others was the only life consistent with God's reign. The church exists to increase among us the love of God and neighbor, and to build within us the deep conviction that we are beloved, valued, people of worth. It is to this high mission that we devote our offerings for ministry in this community and throughout God's world.

#### OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #616 "Awesome God"

**Our God is an awesome God who reigns from heaven above with wisdom, power and love; our God is an awesome God!**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Hear our prayer for all who may be helped by what we give. We offer more than money; we offer ourselves. Keep us strong, that this church may give radiant witness to truth, constructive opposition to evil, and the grace we have all received. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN #750** "Goodness is Stronger Than Evil" (Sing Twice)

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES WITH US.** We carry the Christ Candle out of the sanctuary as a reminder that God's love is with us, even as we go out in peace, guided by the Spirit to bring healing and hope to a broken, hurting and grieving world.

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE #591** "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!"

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!

**POSTLUDE**

**PARTICIPATING IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP SERVICE**

Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Laurie Brubaker Davis
Lector	Josette Kaiser
Christian Ed Coord	Carmen Lawler
Piano/Organ	Josh Olson
Special Music	Laurie Davis, Cello Solo
Media Production	Tech Lead: Dominic Kaiser Tech Team: Aaron Schmidkofer, Ruth Walsh and Sean Walsh
Deacons	Judy Bentley, Travis Cooper, Janet Singer
Greeters	Barb Gillespie, Sue Nelson
Nursery	Therese Brooks

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Danielle Redding, Joy Thomas, and Terry Bernick. Please give names for the prayer list to the church office. Names will be kept on the prayer list for two months.

**OUTREACH TO THE HOMEBOUND, RECOVERING AND ON OUR HEARTS:**

Each week we list one of our members or friends and encourage you to send a card or note. This week we are thinking of: **Paul Mitchell, Wells Nature View, 1016 S. Adams, Marshfield WI 54449.** Please reach out to anyone you think needs a little encouragement with a friendly chat. Lift a spirit with a phone call, email, FB message, etc.

**SECOND SUNDAY BREADS TODAY!** Everyone is invited to join us immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall for treats and coffee and a bit of table fellowship! Coffee will be served by the Deacons.

**VBS 2024: A SUCCESS!** Thank you to those who donated lunch and snack items, those who worked in our kitchen or at our check-in/check-out station, and the entire FPC staff. We are especially grateful for Charlotte Johnson--lead counselor, our most excellent junior counselors--12 in all, and, of course, the happy campers.

**THE PHOTO BOOTH (IN THE LIBRARY) IS OPEN!** We'd love to take a quick picture of you for our new digital (and print) Pictorial Directory we hope to complete by October. The photo booth will be open every Sunday after worship from today, August 11 – Sept. 29. No appointments necessary. Any attire you choose will be perfect. Alternatively, you may submit a photo with your name(s) and the image you'd like us to use at [cps@fpcmarshfield.org](mailto:cps@fpcmarshfield.org).

**FIRST PRESS MAGAZINE SEEKING A NEW EDITORIAL TEAM: ASAP!**

Are you proud of what is happening at FPC and want to tell the story? Your opportunity is here! First Press, our quarterly news magazine, is looking for a team to continue the joy of sharing our work as the hands of Christ. If you are: curious about what is going on at FPC, love to write, have an eye for design, and/or have an editor's gift for making all the good news fit, there is a place for you. To learn more and potentially find your place in this ministry, plan to attend a Finger Food Dinner on **Wed., Aug. 21 at 5:30 pm.** Please speak to Pastor Laurie or email [secretary@fpcmarshfield.org](mailto:secretary@fpcmarshfield.org) to let us know you are coming!

**BRAND NEW BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER!** What time would work for you? The CE Committee has found a great new curriculum to use. Each person gets a little booklet and it is designed to be weekly. CE decided to ask when would work best for you who would like to participate. (Rather than arbitrarily scheduling it and hoping for the best.) How about any of these: Tuesdays 4:00 – 5:00 PM; Wednesdays 12:00 – 1:00 PM; Thursdays 11:00 AM – 12 Noon. Email Pastor Laurie if you are interested, and when would work best for you.



**Welcome to First Presbyterian Church  
12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  
August 11, 2024**

**WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS!** We would be delighted if you would fill out our quick and easy green VISITOR CARD in the center pocket of your pew. Please place it in the offering plate or give it to the pastor after worship.

**WELCOME TO FAMILIES** with children and infants for worship. The staffed nursery is available for infants through three years old. Worship Bags, on a stand at the entrance to the sanctuary, are available to enhance kids' worship experience.



**HEARING & VISUAL ASSISTANCE** Ask an Usher for help: Switch hearing aid to T-Coil Loop Listeners. Magnifiers are available.

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:** First Presbyterian Church, Marshfield, Wisconsin seeks to welcome all to join us on our journey of faith, denying no one, based upon their particular human condition, participation in the life of the church. We want to be a safe place, a sanctuary where people are accepted, included, and cared for as they are. We will be agents of God's transforming power, aligning ourselves with the Holy Spirit as we pray, worship, learn, share fellowship and serve together. By attending to the love of Jesus Christ in our midst, we discover a deepening faith that makes a difference in our lives. As a community based on God's love, we strive to be of service to our neighbors and to the world.

**WE CHOOSE WELCOME:** We at FPC have embraced the "We Choose Welcome" awareness campaign of the PC(USA) which expresses our personal and church-wide commitment to welcome refugees and immigrants into our communities. In the midst of fear of terrorism and radicalism, hate speeches and hate crimes, anxiety about our own economic prosperity, and political debates which seek to divide us between those who were born here and those who were not, we choose welcome for all children of God, proclaiming one household.

**THE BLESSING BOX** at the front of our sanctuary provides a tangible way to express gratitude for the many ways God blesses us. All money placed in the box assists local individuals with carefully vetted, urgent needs occurring due to job loss, domestic violence, health issues and the like. We work with Faith Lutheran Care Fund to provide direct payments for necessities such as gas, rent or utilities. All are invited to share in this act of love by placing donations in the Blessing Box during the offertory.