

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m. Worship



The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

Isaiah 50:4

First Presbyterian Church

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www.fpcsb.net

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

MINISTRY OF VISITATION: MELINDA RUEDA

PASTOR EMERITUS: REV. JAMES C. HUFFSTUTLER

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

WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST; AMY GANO, BELLS

SEMINARY INTERN: CADEN ECKERT

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, September 5th.

Morning Worship†

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

“Dear Lord

Thank you for all the music we can make.

Thank you for the things we can do

Like read and write.”

Martin, aged 8, *Bare Feet and Buttercups*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Autumn Rain

William Zeitler

Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.

*CALL to WORSHIP

This is the day the Lord has made!

✘ **We will rejoice and be glad!**

God has been good to us!

Thanks be to God!

✘ **We will rejoice and be glad!**

As we walk together

Into new adventures

✘ **We will rejoice and be glad!**

HYMN 280

*Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us*¹

EBENEZER

The Choir will sing for all of us.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

✘ **Holy One, as we move two steps forward and one step back, as we return to old things and seek out new things, as we work out what's next, we confess that we are afraid and angry. We don't always know the way forward and sometimes we fumble as we make decisions, and we struggle to trust you even when the way forward is not what we would choose. Give us grace and wisdom.**

(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

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

* **Stand if you are able**

✘ **The congregation will read.**

¹ Music: Ebenezer by Thomas John Williams. Text by Janie Alford ©1979 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

✘ Forgive us. Strengthen us. Give us ears to hear and hearts to understand. Amen.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel

✘ In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole. Amen.

* ALLELUIA (*We rise as the choir sings*)

William Zeitler

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia? Al - le al - le - lu - ia!

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Our children are encouraged to remain with us.

Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery at any time.]

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 50:4-9 The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

Ephesians 4:11-16 The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Be Thou My Vision*²

Jeffrey H. Rickard

Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that thou art; Thou my best thought by day or by night. Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father; thine own may I be; Thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee. Riches I heed not nor vain empty praise; Thou mine inheritance, now and always; Thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure thou art. High King of heaven, my victory won; May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

(We invite you to respond to God's Word. We offer our gifts to be part of God's purposes in the world. Baskets for your offering are near the exit. We are not yet passing plates. You may always send gifts by mail or online.)

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE, OUR LORD'S PRAYER³

✘ 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 79

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*⁴

TEMPLE OF PEACE

Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.

Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes. *Refrain:*

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs; the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing! We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace, as all the world in wonder echoes shalom. Love grows in

a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are

fed. Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes.

(Refrain) Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find

wilderness reborn. Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of

Eden comes. *(Refrain)*

² Music based on Irish tune Slane. Irish poem translated by Mary E. Byrne, Versified by Eleanor H. Hull. Text & Music ©1990 Sacred Music Press (Admin. by Music Services). All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

³ Illustrated Ministry Back-to-School Liturgy

⁴ Text by Mary Louise Bringle ©2002 GIA Publications, Inc. Music by William P. Rowan ©2000 William P. Rowan(admin GIA Publications, Inc.. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

(We rise for the reflection, charge and blessing)

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Chivalrous Virtues: Reason* *William Zeitler*

(For health reasons we are not greeting at the door)

GREETERS: Tom & Donna Garza

USHERS: Dave Thomas, *Lead Usher*

David Grindahl, Marilyn Kraft, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEER: Dan Direen

VIDEO ENGINEER: Raymond Olivares

CAMERA OPERATOR: Merry Beth Grindahl

NURSERY ATTENDANTS: Alexia Aguilar, Ariana Aceves, Itzel Aguilar

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Noe Falconi, Charlene Peterson, Beverly Snell

Elders: **Stephanie Fletcher, Melodee Kistner, Jeanne Clark**

Deacons: **Chris Wright-Thomas, Steve Smith, Dan Direen**

THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR 8 AUGUST 2021

Online calendar: http://www.fpcsb.net/events_links/calendar

Today

10:30 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary.

MONDAY: *Office open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

TUESDAY: *Office open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*; **Deacon Committees**, 6:30 p.m., Zoom; **Deacon Board**, 7:30 p.m., Zoom.

WEDNESDAY: *Office open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

THURSDAY: *Office open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*; **Peter Garcia Memorial**, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall; **Nurture Committee**, 4:00 p.m., Zoom.

FRIDAY: **Kerygma**, 9:30 a.m., on Zoom.

SATURDAY: **Symphonie Jeunesse Orchestra**, 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall; **Straight Up AA**, 10:00 a.m., Room 10; **Ken Tuttle Memorial**, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall.

SUNDAY: **Worship**, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary and on YouTube.

This Weeks' Celebrations

Aug 8 **Tim Usher**
Aug 9 **Jackie McKee**
Aug 10 **Aaron Saenz**
Aug 11 **Ryan Michael Mantei**
 Brent Nord
 Kurt & Lisa Star

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 12

BLOOD

DRIVE



It takes!
all types!

GIVING = LIVING

The Music Box

In the official Gospels, when Pilate famously asks Jesus "What is Truth?" no reply from Jesus is recorded. In the Gospel of Nicodemus, however, a 4th century 'gospel' that didn't make the cut for the official New Testament, Jesus replies! Here is the passage:

(3:2) Jesus answered: "My kingdom is not of this world; for if my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight in order that I should not be given up to the Jews: but now my kingdom is not from here." Pilate said to Him: "Are you then a king?" Jesus answered him: "You say that I am a king. Because for this have I been born, and have I come, in order that every one who is of the truth might hear my voice." Pilate says to him: "What is truth?" Jesus says to him: "Truth is from heaven." Pilate says: "Is truth not upon earth?" Jesus says to Pilate: "You see how those who speak the truth are judged by those that have the power upon earth."

One of the great triumphs in human history has been the steady progress of Scientific Truth in the last few centuries. A key feature of Science is that it concerns itself with the observable and measurable physical world. Scientific theories are tested against observations of physical phenomena. Indeed, the apex of Science is the 'repeatable experiment,' when other scientists can reproduce a scientist's experiment in their own laboratories.

"Scientific *Historical* Truth" is not quite the same. Consider how the cosmos came into being, or how life arose on earth. We can't 'repeat' those events — we can't roll back the clock and watch the Big Bang or the dinosaurs. We have to infer events in the past using our understanding of the physical world today. To me that seems fairly trustworthy 'truth', but not quite as trustworthy as a repeatable experiment.

"Historical Truth" more generally is even less reliable: we know there was a Julius Caesar by historical accounts written by ancient historians. But those can be problematic too — where does historical accuracy leave off and mythology begin? Even in our own day it's hard to know the truth about current well-known people and events. The passage of centuries and millennia only makes the problem worse.

All of these types of 'truth' are concerned with describing the external, physical world — past and present. But science and history tell me nothing about how to live my life, or how to treat my fellow humanity.

One might say this is the province of Philosophy. But if this is the job of Philosophy, it has failed miserably after 2500 years of effort. Chris Daly, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Manchester observes:

Philosophy seems to be on a hiding to nothing. It has a 2,500-year history in the West and an extensive back-catalogue — of problems. There are questions about what exists, and what we know about it, such as: Do we have free will? Is there an external world? Does God exist? and so on. There are also questions of analysis and definition such as: What makes a sentence true? What makes an act just? What is causation? What is a person? This is a tiny sample. For almost any abstract notion, some philosopher has wondered what it really is.

Yet, despite this wealth of questions and the centuries spent tackling them, philosophers haven't successfully provided any answers. They've tried long and hard but nothing they've said towards answering those questions has quite made the grade. Other philosophers haven't been slow to pick holes in their attempted answers and expose flaws or dubious assumptions in them. The punctures in the attempted answers then get patched up and put up for discussion again. But what happens is that new punctures appear, or the patches fail and the old punctures are revealed again. Philosophy emerges as a series of arguments without end, and its questions settle into seemingly intractable problems.

So when Pilate says "What is Truth?", that remains a darn good question! The Gospel of Nicodemus records a reply: Jesus says: "Truth is from heaven." Maybe there's more truth to that than meets the eye. Maybe the Truths that guide our lives HAVE to come from outside of the system, from heaven, from God. Maybe because we're not capable of answering these questions on our own.

-- William Zeidler

(References can be found at: <https://grailheart.com/musings/what-is-truth>)