



Hands of the World, Movement for Peace

FIRST   
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Twentieth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
Sunday, August 20, 2023  
10:30 A.M.

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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## THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Rom. 11:1-2a, 29-32*

God has forgiven us and drawn us close,  
Reconciling us through Jesus Christ,  
Who has lavished upon us  
The fullness of the blessed Holy Spirit.  
**With glad and grateful hearts, praise the Lord!**

\*OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts. Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that all people may know the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

\*HYMN 263

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

CORONATION

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Diane Bowers

May God be with you in worship here.  
**May God be with you in worship there.**

*Children may depart the sanctuary with their teacher for Worship & Wonder. They will return to the sanctuary before communion.*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

*Ps. 85:5*

Let us confess our sins without fear to the One who yearns to embrace us, forgive us, and bless us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus. We are dismayed at your presence, anguished by the awful fallout of our own failures. We cannot take back what we have said or undo what we have done or atone for the agony we have caused. We are haunted by the past, plagued by the present, and fearful of the future. We shrink away from your gaze as strangers outside your circle of blessing. Yet the faith you have planted in us reaches out for your favor, returns to your presence, and hungers for your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Silence is kept for prayer and reflection.*

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Gen. 45*

Our God kisses us with kindness, forgiving our sins, preserving our lives, and restoring our souls through the abundant provision of our Lord Jesus Christ. Receive now that for which faith has hungered: you are forgiven and healed in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen!**

\*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

GREATOREX

**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. Amen.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Merciful Savior, your suffering has saved our lives, secured our future, and restored us to relationship with God. Remove the shame and fear that cause us to cower in your presence. By the power of your Spirit, open our eyes and hearts to your Word of love, mercy, healing, and blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32                      The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Genesis 45:1-15                              The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

“Reconciled: The Irrevocable Gift”

Rev. Matt Curry

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*from the Confession of 1967*

**To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God’s reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God’s message of reconciliation and shares God’s labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.**

## THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

*For Everyone Born*  
Ben Goodwin, Cello

arr. Tom Trenney

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
compassion and peace. (Shirley Erena Murray)

\*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise...**  
...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*Sung by all:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest!** *The prayer continues.*

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.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. Usbers will guide you forward to partake by taking a small piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Prepackaged gluten-free elements are available in the baskets near the communion stations. Servers will come to those who prefer to remain in their seats.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Nourishing God, thank you for inviting us to your table where all are welcome, and for feeding us with the bread of life and quenching our thirst with the cup of blessing. As you have filled our lives with love and hope, may we be a source of your love and hope for others who hunger and thirst for good news. Amen.**

## THE SENDING

\*HYMN 318

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

ST. PETER

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

## LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *CeCe Robinson*

Communion Servers: *Mary Lou Taylor & Marilyn Van Winkle*

# The Life of the Church

**The Ordination of Patrick Wallace** as Minister of Word and Sacrament will be held this afternoon at 4:00pm in our sanctuary. We will join the commission elected by the Presbytery of Western Kentucky in celebrating this milestone in Patrick's journey and giving thanks for his ministry of compassion as a chaplain at Deaconess Henderson Hospital. A reception will be held following the service in Fellowship Hall.

**Thank you** to everyone who came together to make yesterday's Owensboro Multicultural Festival a success. We are especially grateful to Debbie McCoy for her outstanding leadership of this important ministry of our church.

**The Nominating Committee** is beginning its work of discerning who it should present for election as church leaders for 2024. If you are interested in serving as an elder, deacon, or trustee, or know of someone who would be great for one of these roles, please contact Debbie Hutchinson or the church office.

**Hearing Assistance Devices** are available. Please see an usher if you would like to use one.



The flowers today are given in memory and in celebration of the joyful life of Winifred Jennings Kramer, (Mom, Mama Kree, Grand-Mere and Grammy); given by her children Fritz (and Christy) Kramer, Stan (and Evelyn) Kramer and Margaret (and Jim) Seiffert, her grandchildren and great grandchildren with much love.



First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.



1328 Griffith Avenue  
Owensboro, Kentucky  
270.684.1467  
fpcobky.com

Rev. Matt Curry, Pastor  
Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission  
Stephanie Dube, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries  
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music  
Tyler Simpson, Organist  
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant  
Dylan Schroader, Custodian  
Emmy Voyles, Nursery Care Provider