



Jesus Multiplies the Loaves and Fish, Jesus Mafa, Cameroon

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Eighteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Sunday, August 6, 2023
10:30 A.M.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CHORAL INTROIT *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come, carrying just what we need for the journey:

Five loaves, two fish.

We come, bringing whatever we have to offer:

Our time, our talents, our gifts.

We come, knowing God will multiply our offerings:

In God's hands, what we have is enough.

*OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the Word of his kingdom. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

*HYMN 498

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

BEACH SPRING

BLESSING FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

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

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Let us confess our sins in the presence of the One who blesses us and meets our need.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gen. 32, Ps. 17, Matt. 14

God of compassion, we are sick. We have wrestled all night with worry instead of resting in you. We have asserted our own goodness instead of awakening to yours. We have turned away those hungry for your help instead of trusting you and feeding them from your limitless supply of blessings. Forgive us, heal us, and help us to hold on to you. We call upon you, for you will answer us, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence is kept for prayer and reflection.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The God of steadfast love is our refuge and Savior. In Christ, we who are broken are healed, forgiven, filled, and transformed.

Alleluia! 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.**

*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 460)

BREAD OF LIFE

**Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
As thou didst break the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord.
My spirit pants for thee, O living Word!**

**Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, now unto me,
As thou didst bless the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall.
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.**

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All-knowing God, you have satisfied our hunger at sunset and held us close through nights of wrestling. Now let the day break with your blessing. Awaken and illumine us by your Word that we may behold your likeness. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Genesis 32:22-31 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 14:13-21 The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

“A Tale of Two Empires”

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Book of Order, W-5.0303

God sends the Church to show compassion in the world: feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, visiting prisoners, freeing captives, sheltering the homeless, welcoming strangers, comforting those who mourn, and being present with all who are in need. We are called to minister directly to people’s immediate hurts and needs. We are also called to confront and challenge systems that perpetuate human misery. When we gather at the table, we confess our complicity in oppressive structures, pray for those who are hurting, offer our resources to alleviate suffering, and commit our time and energy to care for those in need. Following the example of Jesus Christ, we pledge that we will respect the dignity of all, reach out to those judged undeserving, receive as well as give, and even risk our lives to show Christ’s love.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Online giving is available at fpcobky.com

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

Craig Carnahan

With the saints who now adore you seated at the heavenly board,
May the church still waiting for you keep love's tie unbroken, Lord. (Louis Benson)

*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. Ushers 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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

And Can It Be
Shelby Ratliff, Soprano

Dan Forrest

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world—because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 721

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Debbie Hutchinson*

Communion Servers: *Patti Price & Janice Odom*

The Life of the Church

The Choir returns today after their brief summer break! Rehearsals are held Sunday mornings at 9:00am. Anyone interested in joining should speak with Dennis Jewett.

Joyful Noise, a fun music making time for kids and youth, is held today after worship. Aryanne Brailsford will be leading this fun summer opportunity from 11:30am-12:00 noon each Sunday.

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



The 25th Annual Owensboro Multicultural Festival is coming Saturday, August 19, 10am-4pm on our church lawn. This signature ministry of our church brings together thousands of people to celebrate the diversity that makes our community beautiful.



Volunteer Sign-Ups are now open! We need folks to help with setup and cleanup, working the welcome booths, and more. Visit the table in the main hallway to sign up.

Yard Signs to promote the festival are available to check out in the hallway near the Clinton Place entrance. Please take one for your home and/or workplace to help us spread the word!

Follow us on Facebook for updates: facebook.com/OwensboroMulticulturalFestival



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.



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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
Tammy Hoffman, Staff Accountant
Dylan Schroader, Custodian
Emmy Voyles, Nursery Care Provider