



Bath Abbey, United Kingdom

FIRST   
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Sixteenth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
Sunday, July 23, 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

*Ps. 139:7-10, Gen. 28:16-17*

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

**Whether I go up to heaven or make my bed in the depths, you are there.**

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

**Even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

Surely the Lord is in this place!

**This is the house of God.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, Author of our life and End of our pilgrimage: Guide us by your Word and Spirit amid all perils and temptations, that we may not wander from your way, nor stumble in the darkness; but may finish our course in safety, and come to our eternal rest in you; through the grace and merit of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

\*HYMN 667

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

LAUDES DOMINI

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Matt Curry

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

*Rom. 8:14-15*

Siblings in Christ, all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. We did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but we have received a spirit of adoption. Let us then confess our sin with the freedom of children who know how deeply they are loved.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, your creatures cry—creation groans—but we turn away; we surround ourselves with noise. We are quick to excuse ourselves from responsibility: we are young; we are old; we are tired; we are busy. It is hard to imagine that we might make a difference. Life-giving God, wash us clean. Restore our imagination and our hearts. Let your courage and compassion flow through our veins until we love with abandon and our hands reach out in blessing, for the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.**

*Silence is kept.*

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Siblings in Christ, hear the word of the Lord. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God says unequivocally, irrevocably: you are my own; you are forgiven; and I need you to be about my business in the world. **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.**

**We are climbing Jacob's ladder,  
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,  
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,  
Soldiers of the cross.**

**Ev'ry round goes higher, higher...  
Children, do you love my Jesus?...**

## **THE WORD**

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, you love with a father's tenderness, a mother's zeal. Move now in our hearts. Breathe through the words we hear, the songs we share, the burdens we carry, until we discover our purpose in your liberating love, for we long to join creation's praise and to shine with the mercy of the Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:12-25      The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Genesis 28:10-19a      The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

“This Place is Awesome!”

Rev. Matt Curry

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*Online giving is available at [fpcobky.com](http://fpcobky.com)*

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Tevin Vincent, Soloist

\*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

**Holy and eternal God, you are as far away as the distant stars and as close as our breath. You meet us at this table and we discover our hearts burning within us. Go with us as we leave this place, so that your light and your life may shine brightly for all to see. Amen.**

## THE SENDING

\*HYMN 65

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

CWM RHONDDA

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

## LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Anna Robinson*

Communion Servers: *Troy and CeCe Robinson*

# The Life of the Church

**Mission Committee** meets following worship today in the parlor.

**The Monthly Men's Breakfast** is BYOB! (Bring Your Own Breakfast). Join us at 8:00am on Saturday, August 5 in Fellowship Hall for a brief devotion, food, and fellowship.

**LGBTQ+ People and the Church** is the topic of a Summer Education Series that meets Sunday mornings at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall through July 30. Coffee and refreshments will be provided. Next week's final session will focus on how churches can practice inclusion.

**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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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](https://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  
Dylan Schroader, Custodian  
Emmy Voyles, Nursery Care Provider