

Great
are the
works
of the Lord.

*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

July 23, 2023 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

You are invited to stand if able
Items in **bold** are congregational responses

– ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME–

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

JOYS AND SORROWS

Pastor

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

God of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish in us all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same, through Jesus Christ our Lord who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We look at this world, focusing on the pain and confusion, the fears and hatred which seem to abound.

People: For what can we hope?

Leader: We wait breathlessly for the goodness of creation to be made manifest in all the world, for this is the promise of God.

People: God is always with us, guiding, rescuing, healing, restoring us.

Leader: Get ready, dear friends, the promises of God are true.

**People: Lord, quiet our spirits and open our hearts.
Bring us hope and peace. AMEN.**

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

God of wisdom and insight, help us to slow down from the busy world around us. Remind us to simply listen for You. May we remember that, in the busyness of the world, there is another world, the one You made, full of life. May we catch hold of that sense of awe this morning and remember that You shaped and breathed life into us. May we remember each day, each moment, what a gift we are to You and to one another. We praise You, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Amen.

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION

God's love is unqualified; God's mercy is 'ever faithful ever sure.' Let us pray and thank God for the patience God shows us and the saving love of Jesus, no matter what happens, in spite of the ignorance we do not always recognize and our complicity with evil that we do not readily face.

***HYMN: "Here in This Place (Gather Us In)" Insert**

CHORUS

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Led by Pastor

There are many occasions when we are foolish and impetuous, but you do not leave us; when we are rebellious and stubborn, but you do not leave us; when we are selfish and arrogant, but you do not leave us; when we are anxious and faithless, but you do not leave us; when we are indifferent and prayerless, but you do not leave us. We thank you, gracious God, that your forgiveness is never withheld from any individual that turns to you in repentant faith. Thank you for including us as we return to you today, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen!

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***KYRIE:** *Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor

Whatever our condition, whatever our position, whatever our mindset, God is always faithful to forgive the repentant sinner, to redeem all who call on Him in faith. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI:**

*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.*

***SHARING THE PEACE:**

May the peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another in the name and love of Christ.

– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Led by Liturgist

Illumine us, O God. Bless us with ears to hear your truth, vision to discern your path, and feet ready to move into action, responding to your call. Guide us and inspire us in this moment of proclamation. Amen.

PSALM IN SONG “You Are Before Me, Lord (Psalm 139)” Blue 248

Leader: Verses 1 and 3, People: Verses 2, 4, and 5

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 28:10-19 Liturgist

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Sweet Hour of Prayer" Bobbi Jo Huebner

NEW TESTAMENT: Romans 8:18-25 Pastor

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 Pastor

SERMON: "Can You Tell?" Pastor

HYMN "Nearer, My God, to Thee" Verses 1-4 Insert

***APOSTLES' CREED (Ecumenical Version) Blue p. 14**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHORUS "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

RESPONSE: Merciful and gracious God, **Hear our prayer.**

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP Liturgist

God dwells among us making all things new. Let us participate in this new creation by offering our gifts to God.

OFFERTORY Joe Balogh

*** DOXOLOGY:**

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Led by Liturgist

Grateful for your radical hospitality and steadfast love we present these gifts to you, God. Use them to further your will and transform our world into your new, redeemed creation. Amen.

HYMN

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

Blue 439

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Leader: God’s Spirit sends us.

People: **We are to shine like the sun, bearing witness to Christ our Savior.**

Leader: May the nourishment of God’s Word, the bond of Christian community, and the guidance of God’s Holy Spirit fortify us for faithful lives of discipleship, in the name of the Father, our Creator; the Son, our Redeemer; and the Spirit, our Sustainer.

People: **Amen!**

RESPONSE: **Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!**

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

Liturgical Pieces used with permission from McDowell Ott, the Presbyterian Outlook; Bruce Prewer; and Rev. Mindi, Rev-o-lution

Those Serving Among Us Today

Liturgist today is Nancy Komlos.

Greeter today was Patty Gillon.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:

TODAY: Worship at 10 am

WEDNESDAY: Set up tents; contact Brett Berish for time.

FRIDAY: Set up for Craft Show

SATURDAY: Christmas in July Craft Show from 9:30 am – 2 pm

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am; 2 cents a meal offering

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

July 27- Amelia McWreath July 28- Dorothy Helster Aug. 4- Jacob Phillabaum Ian Pallotta	Aug. 6- Jaxon Zeli Aug. 7- Sally Callaway Breslin Trubiani
July 23- Ray & Carin Rudolph Aug. 5- Bill & Sally Callaway Aug. 7- Bill & Chemen Callaway	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CRAFT SHOW: We have over 30 vendors signed up for the show and the excitement is building. Please share the news with your friends and family and invite them to come. We can use help with setup on Friday and for help with greeting and helping guests.

HOA will be selling food and could use your help, as well.

*We need helpers in the morning at 8 am to help set up and at 2 pm to help with tearing down. Brett Berish will lead the men in putting up the large tents on Wednesday at 12 pm. We will put up the three small tents the morning of the event.

OFFERINGS: Thank you for your faithful support of the church and its ministries. We have returned to receiving the offerings in the pews. We will continue to have the plates on windowsills, as well. You may still drop off your offerings in the mail slot of the Parish House.

PEACH FESTIVAL: Our annual Peach Festival will be on Saturday, August 12th. Mark your calendars for the 11th to help us peel peaches and make pies! Also, prepare your ideas for the bake sale.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember the following people in your thoughts and prayers.

Please call the office with prayer needs, updates, and questions
or e-mail the church at office@fpresbv.org.

† John Amoroso † Kaiden Bane † Nuncio Battista † Wesley Beam †
Dolores Beatty † Bill Behrens † Joann Bellora † Mary Lou Berish
Bob & Carol Berish † Carl Boone † Garret Brigs † Frank Britton †
Cameron Burnardza † Angel Burnsworth † Joe Burnsworth † Colin †
Sally Callaway † Sally Campbell † Carol Carcella † Milana (Berish)
Cerniga † Rev. Ian Chikoti † Michael Colla † Lou Comadina † Nancy
Craig † Glenn Crownover † Darla † Rich & Kathy Davies † Sandy
Davis † Carol Driver † Sandy Elder † MaryAnn Falk † Norm Floyd †
Howard Forsyth † Sarah Hepple † Brittany Heckathorn † Wayne
Helster † Patti Huyck † Diane Johnston † Zoey Johnson † Janet †
June Kefover † Donna Kearns † Cameron Kennedy † Lisa Korff †
Robert Korff † Gordon & Teresa Lucas Family † Irene Leyda † Mike
Lemley † Gordon Lucas † Ronnie Lynn † J.T. Mateka † Taylor McGee
† Bruce Merritt † Dean Migliori † Phil Morrow † Lynette Murray † Tim
and Melissa Nagelreiter † Betsy Neel † Duane Nelson † Mary Caroline
Nicholas † Bob Palfrey † June Palfrey † Scott Palfrey † Marge
Pawlaski † Nora Pelezar † Helen Pulgino † Dennis Raymer † Pat
Robon † Dorothy Rogers † Alina Shaw † Linda Shuler † Chris Sicora
† Toi Smith † Walter Smith † Gianna Smoyer † Loretta Sterner †
Laura Stopka † Patty Strychalski † Sandy Walters † Joseph
Waywood † Yauger Family † Kim Zunic †

**Pray for the safety and protection of First Responders
(police, fire, EMTs), Military Personnel, Medical Personnel,
Caregivers who deplete themselves caring for others, and those
affected by senseless violence and war.**

*(If you have a prayer concern or to update the list, please call the office at 724-929-7616
or fill out a prayer card and place in the offering plate)*

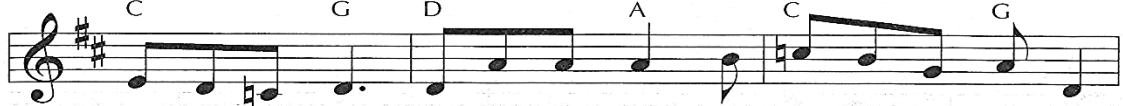
Here in This Place

401

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

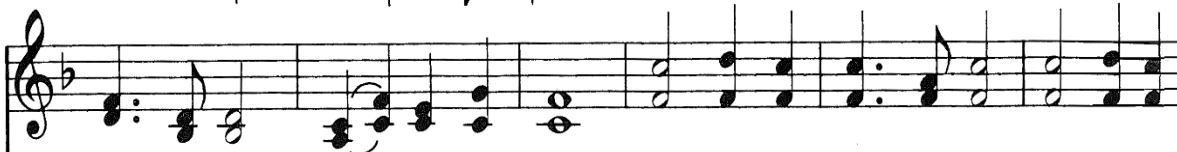
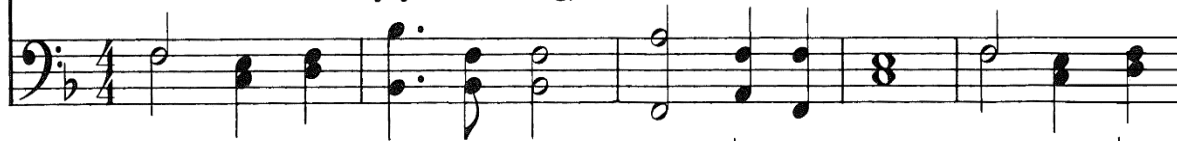
The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

393 Nearer, My God, to Thee

You are near, O Lord, and all Your commands are true. Ps. 119:151



1. Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee! E'en though it
2. Though like the wan - der - er, The sun gone down, Dark-ness be
3. *There let the way ap - pear Steps un - to heav'n; All that Thou
4. Then, with my wak - ing thoughts Bright with Thy praise, Out of my
5. Or if on joy - ful wing, Cleav - ing the sky, Sun, moon, and



be a cross That rais-eth me; Still all my song shall be, Near-er, my
o - ver me, My rest a stone; Yet in my dreams I'd be Near-er, my
send - est me In mer - cy giv'n; An - gels to beck - on me Near-er, my
ston - y griefs, Beth - el I'll raise; So by my woes to be Near-er, my
stars for-got, Up - ward I fly, Still all my song shall be Near-er, my



God, to Thee, Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee. A - men.



*Genesis 28:12 **Genesis 35:15

TEXT: Sarah F. Adams; based on Genesis 28:10-22

MUSIC: Lowell Mason

BETHANY
6.4.6.4.6.6.6.4.

The Breath Prayer

Written by Sheridan Voysey

Lord God, fill me with your Holy Spirit

I receive your love & release my insecurity

I receive your joy & release my unhappiness

I receive your peace & release my anxiety

I receive your patience & release my impulsiveness

I receive your kindness & release my indifference

I receive your goodness & release my ungodliness

I receive your faithfulness & release my disloyalty

I receive your gentleness & release my severity

I receive your self-control & release my self-indulgence

Artwork by @jodiew888



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Belle Vernon

501 Fayette Avenue, Rostraver Twp., PA 15012

Church Offices: 511 Fayette Avenue

Office Hours: M - F: 9:00 to 1:00

Church Phone: 724- 929-7616

Fax and Fellowship Hall Phone: 724-929-0209

Pastor's Cell Phone: 724-243-2871

Web: www.fpresbv.org **e-mail:** office@fpresbv.org

Pastor:	Mary Kay Glunt	243-2871
Clerk of Session:	Sharon Zunic	929-4463
Church Secretary:	Natalie Brewer	929-7616
Organist:	Joe Balogh	
Chairman of Deacons:	Susan Aten	929-6406
Head Usher:	Bill Callaway	929-5176
Custodian:	Patty Gillon	929-7616
H. O. A:	Linda Aten	929-6406

E L D E R S

Class of 2023
Sharon Zunic
Jane Bonari
Mary Beth Burkley
Bill Kunca

Class of 2024
Lori Lamberski
Carol Tragesser
David Burdis

Class of 2025

D E A C O N S

Class of 2023
Marguerite Patterson
Dennis Peters
Patty Gillon
Eileen Kunca

Class of 2024
Jessica Phillabaum
Dave Neel

Class of 2025
Susan Aten
Fred Exley
June Exley
Barb Moskala

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, service, and witness.

As a Christ-centered church empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek God's plan for each of us and all of us. We welcome everyone to journey with us as we strive to grow in love, faith, trust, and discipleship.

(Adopted October 10, 1998; revised February 2, 2013)