# Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**September 14, 2025** 



# **Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

September 14, 2025, 10:00 a.m. Service

### **WELCOME TO FPC**

We are so glad you are with us on this day where we celebrate the gift of hope for ourselves and for our world. We invite you to follow us on Facebook, sign up for our weekly emails or check the website regularly to see the new things God is doing among us at FPC Findlay!

#### CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

**Little Ones:** Infants and toddlers are welcome to join trained caregivers in Room 333 on the third floor during worship.

**Children's Worship Bulletins:** These are available along with activity packets in the Narthex.

Ask a Greeter for one.

**Godly Play:** Children in preschool through elementary school-age are invited to attend Godly Play worship in Room 340 following the Blessing of the Children.

#### WORSHIP LEADERS

**Pastor:** Rev. Jessica Commeret

**Director of Music:** Clinton Miller

Lay Reader: Carol Dale-Joseph

Musicians: Chancel Choir; GatherRing Handbell Choir;

FPC Choral Scholars: Zo Povlsen, BK Riha,

Zach Sanford

**A/V Technician:** Robbie Riffle

Please turn off all mobile and electronic devices while in the Sanctuary.

\*Indicates to rise in body or spirit.

At the sound of the bells, please prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

Lift Every

for a school

assembly at

spoke on Lincoln's

birthday in 1900, this text

Voice and Sing:

Initially a poem

which Booker T. Washington

# **GATHERING**

We gather as a community and prepare our hearts to worship God.

Tolling of the Bells

Prelude Kum ba Ya (Come By Here)

arr. Charles Callahan

Choral Introit

Ask the Complicated Questions

David Bjorlin

Ask the complicated questions, do not fear to be found out; for our God makes strong our weakness, forging faith in fires of doubt.

\*Call to Worship

We come to you, O God, to thank you for what is good.

We come to you, O God, to cry out for what is wrong.

We come to you, O God, to ask for help and restoration.

We come to you, O God, with aching hearts and glad souls.

Let us worship God.

\*Opening Hymn 339

Lift Every Voice and Sing

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

Forgiving God,

we confess that we are conformed to this world.

We conform to this world's frantic pace,

too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide.

We conform to this world's reckless waste,

exploiting what you entrust to our care.

We conform to this world's shallow values, oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us.

We conform to this world's impatient attitudes,

preferring the latest instead of the lasting.

Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God.

(Silent Confession)

We pray this all in the name of Christ. Amen.

\*Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

\*Passing of the Peace

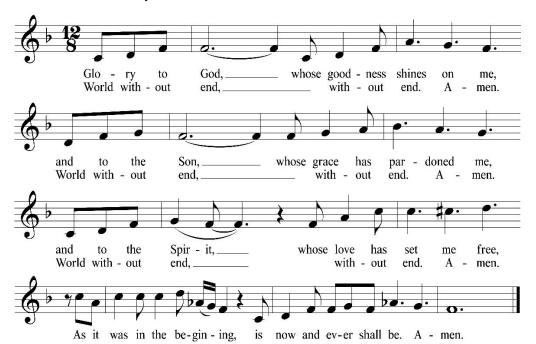
Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

\*Grateful Response

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me



Children are invited to come to the Chancel steps for a brief blessing.

Following the Blessing of the Children, children 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and younger may go to Room 340 for Godly Play.

Blessing of the Children

#### **BREAKING OPEN THE WORD**

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Genesis 9:18-28

Pew Bible page 7

<sup>18</sup> The sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Ham was the father of Canaan. <sup>19</sup> These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was peopled.

<sup>20</sup> Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard. <sup>21</sup> He drank some of the wine and became drunk, and he lay uncovered in his tent. <sup>22</sup> And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. <sup>23</sup> Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness. <sup>24</sup> When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, <sup>25</sup> he said, "Cursed be Canaan;

lowest of slaves shall he be to his brothers."

<sup>26</sup> He also said,

- "Blessed by the Lord my God be Shem, and let Canaan be his slave.
- <sup>27</sup> May God make space for Japheth, and let him live in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his slave."
- <sup>28</sup> After the flood Noah lived three hundred fifty years. <sup>29</sup> All the days of Noah were nine hundred fifty years, and he died.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Scripture Anthem By the Waters of Babylon (Psalm 137) Trad. Jewish melody

By the waters of Babylon, we sat down and wept, and wept for Zion. We remember Zion. On the willows of Babylon, we hung up our harps, sweet harps of Babylon. Those who took us to Babylon, asked us for a song, some song of Zion. On the foreign soil, the foreign soil of Babylon, how dare we to praise the God of Zion? By the waters, the waters of Babylon, we sat down and wept, and wept for Zion. We remember, we remember, we remember Zion.

Second Lesson Philemon Pew Bible page 970

<sup>4</sup>I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup> For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, <sup>9</sup> yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. <sup>12</sup> I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup> I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup> Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup> Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

Babylon is both geographic and symbolic, the city where exiled Jews were taken and any place where people are forced to remain away from what is dear and holy to them.

When Interpretation Becomes Fact Rev. Jessica Commeret

Sermon

# **RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD**

\*Hymn 770

I'm Gonna Eat At the Welcome Table

Call for Offering

Offertory Anthem

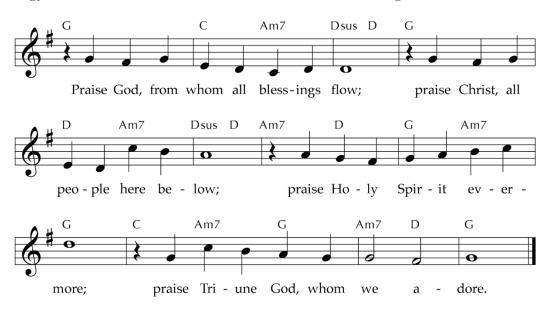
Go Down, Moses

arr. David W. Music

When Israel was in Egypt land, let my people go! Oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go! Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt land. Tell old Pharoah, let my people go! "Thus saith the Lord," bold Moses said: let my people go! "If not I'll smite your first-born dead," let my people go! "No more shall they in bondage toil," let my people go! "Let them come out with Egypt's spoil," let my people go!

# \*Doxology

# Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Concerns and Celebrations

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

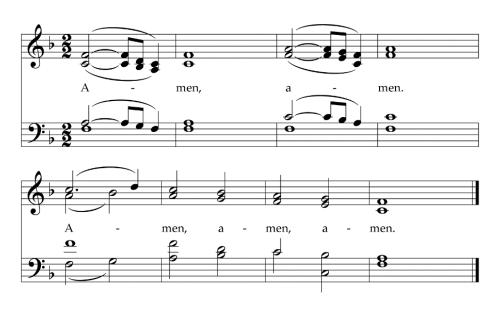
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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.



# SENDING FORTH IN MISSION

Messages for Our Life in Community

\*Closing Hymn 346 For the Healing of the Nations

\*Benediction

Postlude Go down, Moses arr. Geoffrey Nobes

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**September 14, 2025** 

#### **TODAY**

#### Men's Group

#### 9:00 a.m., Room 211

This group is open to all men of our church and meets on the second Sunday of each month. Let's get to know each other better and share our work and faith stories. Hope to see all of you there.

Contact: Curt Hugunin at 419-957-2038

# Fellowship

We have coffee, snacks, and conversations starting at 9:30 a.m. and again following worship every Sunday in the Parlor.

# Community Dinner Help is Needed 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Great Room

Today's Menu: Pasta Primavera, tossed salad, garlic bread, fresh fruit and cookies. The Community Dinner outreach provides a nutritious home-cooked meal on the 2nd Sunday of each month to the community. Volunteers are always welcome and needed to help provide food items, prepare the meals, and serve.

#### **Youth Group**

#### 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

The Youth, grades 6-12 will gather for pizza, learning and fun. Contact Darcy Metcalfe or Lena Kennedy with questions!

# THIS WEEK

#### September Sermon Series

Seriously, not Literally.

- **September 21:** Submissive Women or Leaders in the Early Church? Ephesians 5:21-33; I Timothy 2:8-15; I Corinthians 11:2-16.
- **September 28:** Revelation: Can we make any sense of it? (Variety of Texts).

#### Lay Readers Needed

If you are interested in being a liturgist/lay reader this fall, please sign up outside the Church Office.

#### **New Website and Phone App Coming Soon**

We are updating our website with a fresh new look and updated information. We will also soon have a phone app available which will allow you to watch services online, sign up for events, get reminders of events (like choir rehearsals, youth meetings, etc.), make contributions, and search for contact information of members.

Stay tuned for the roll out!

# Sunday Morning Faith Formation Sunday mornings following Worship, Fellowship Hall

- September 21: All things childcare: Join the FPC Childcare Task Force, our partners Advantage Early Learning Academy and the Childcare Working Group for an Update.
- September 28: Mission Committee Update.

#### Music Ministry Rehearsals Have Begun

GatherRing Handbell Choir

New Rehearsal Day & Time: Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

**Chancel Choir** 

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Choir Room Join us as we prepare an exciting fall lineup of music.

#### **Fall Newsletter**

You should have received the Fall Newsletter in the mail and via email. Extra copies are located in the Narthex, the Entry way, and in the Parlor. Packed with lots of great information about our exciting fall activities and news, be sure to stay informed!

#### **Updated Church Directories**

Updated Directories are available in the Entryway, the Narthex and the Parlor.

#### Monthly Opportunities to Serve at City Mission

All are welcome at the table! Help us "share the bread" with our neighbors by joining members of the Mission Committee twice a month to serve meals at City Mission. Upcoming dates:

- September 25, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
- October 14, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Sign up outside the Church Office. Contact Lark McCormick about Tuesday lunches and Liz Wickard about Thursday evening dinners.

#### **Building Usage**

As we prepare for the childcare center to reside in the Great Wing, the session is asking the congregation to begin using the 1950s side of the building starting in October. Building and Grounds Committee has oversight. Along with Facility Manager Kelly Sherrieb, and the rest of the staff, we're getting things ready! Please contact Kelly with concerns about where your committee is being assigned to meet in October. Thanks for your flexibility as we make this transition! Contact: ksherrieb@findlayfpc.org

#### **GET CONNECTED**

Scan the code to read our weekly E-News Connections. You can also read in your email.

# **ONLINE GIVING**

You can open the camera on your smartphone and scan the QR code to be connected to our Giving page via a link pop up. We encourage you to use this method to give as we pass the offering plate. Thank you!



# First Presbyterian Church Staff

Jessica Commeret, Pastor jcommeret@findlayfpc.org
Clinton Miller, Director of Music cmiller@findlayfpc.org
Stephanie Bryan, Church/Financial Secretary sbryan@findlayfpc.org
Kelly Sherrieb, Facility Manager ksherrieb@findlayfpc.org
Ray Niblett, Head Custodian custodian@findlayfpc.org

Curt Hugunin, Evening Custodian Marna Weaver, Church Accountant

Allison Badertscher, Communications abadertscher@findlayfpc.org

**Support Specialist** 

Lena Kennedy, Family Ministry Coordinator lkennedy@findlayfpc.org

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#### **WORSHIP VIA FACEBOOK LIVE**

As the prelude begins, we invite you to share your prayer requests in the comments section beneath the Facebook Live video.

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#### LITURGICAL ART

**First Presbyterian Church** follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together as Christians. We are currently in the season of Pentecost or Ordinary Time, which lasts from Trinity Sunday to the First Sunday of Advent. The color GREEN symbolizes the renewal of living things and the promise of new life and growth for the Church. The DOSSAL CURTAIN, behind the Cross, and the paraments on the pulpit and lectern visually depict a saying of Jesus: "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living waters" -John 7:30. It also reminds us of the words "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" -Amos 5:24. The TREE OF LIFE, on either side of the Chancel depicts Revelation 22:2 "On either side of the river was the tree of life, and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." The vision of artist Don Beck remains a formative influence on the worship life of First Presbyterian Church.

# Honoring our heritage, we are a dynamic body welcoming all to Christ's spacious table, illumined to serve God with imagination and love.

Belong. Be Challenged. Be Love.

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2330 S. Main St. Findlay, OH 45840 419-423-2112 www.findlayfpc.org · email: info@findlayfpc.org Facebook.com/findlayfpc



#### **HYMNS FOR WORSHIP**

# Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies; let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us. Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on, till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died.

Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

# Glory to God

1 Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

2 World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

# I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

1 I'm gonna eat at the welcome table; I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Alleluia.

I'm gonna eat at the welcome table; I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, Alleluia.

2 I'm gonna eat and drink with my Jesus; . . .

3 I'm gonna join with sisters, brothers; . . .

4 Here all the world will find a welcome; . . .

5 We're gonna feast on milk and honey; . . .

# For the Healing of the Nations

1 For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord; for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords; to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.

2 Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release, that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.

Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.

3 All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned: pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan. In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.

4 You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind; for our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.