

First Presbyterian Church



512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 282-1618

Service for the Lord's Day
September 20, 2015
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 and 11 a.m.

Welcome to worship this morning.

- First Presbyterian Church welcomes families with young children. Staffed nursery care is available during worship. Audio from the worship service can be heard in the library (adjacent to the sanctuary) and social hall.
- If you are visiting because of medical treatment at Mayo Clinic we offer our prayers for healing.
- Our activities and programs are open to all, member and friend alike.
- We invite you to join us for coffee and fellowship in the social hall following the 8:30 service and in the atrium following the 11:00 service.

* As a courtesy to others, please silence cell phones. *

Gathering

Prelude The King of Love My Shepherd Is Callahan and Hobby

Our worship begins with the prelude. Let the power of the music speak to you of God's glory; let its quietness tell you of God's peace; let its beauty lift your hearts in prayer.

Greeting and Welcome

Please sign the Opportunity for Friendship Register and pass it to the person next to you.

Minute for Celebration Sign-up

Minute for Nominating Committee

Gayle Jones

Minute for Stewardship

Karen Sessler

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

(8:30) Lucinda Cutrer
(11:00) Robert Kyle

Our world offers many wide avenues and beautiful boulevards to walk;

Our God invites us to walk the road of service and sacrifice.

Our society suggests we put down our roots in the shallow soil of pleasure and greed.

Our God seeks to plant us on the banks of hope, watered by the rivers of joy and grace.

Our culture promotes achievement, success, climbing to the top, ringing the bell.

Our God tells us if we want to be first we need to go to the end of the line.

Let us learn together and grow into the people God would have us be.

Let us worship God

◆ Hymn 727

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

THE SERVANT SONG

Call to Reconciliation (please be seated)

While we try to live in God's way, we know we often follow the wrong advice or walk down sin's shadowed streets. God calls us to confess so that we might be welcomed into the embracing arms of God's mercy and renewal. Let us pray ...

Silent Confession

Kyrie 430 (stanza 1) Remember Not, O God (Psalm 79) SOUTHWELL
Remember not, O God, the sins of long ago;
In tender mercy visit us, distressed and humbled low.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are just like those first disciples of Jesus. Our cravings for more and more toss us about like leaves in the fall winds. We boast of our great wisdom, yet do not fully grasp your ways of peace and gentleness. We reap harvests of disorder and conflict because we do not fully plant ourselves in your hope and grace. Draw near to us, Gracious God, and forgive us. Draw us into your tender arms, and teach us peace, gentleness, the willingness to put the other first, the wisdom to serve instead of seize, that we might bring forth a harvest of righteousness, justice, and peace – in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Words of Life

This is the wisdom from above: God freely gives us the forgiveness and mercy we need so that we might share the good harvest of joy and mercy with everyone we meet.

Bathed in the living waters, fed by Jesus the Bread of Life, we are given new life and hope. Thanks be to God: we are forgiven! Amen.

◆ **Gloria Patri 581** Glory Be to the Father GREATOREX

Commissioning of ALL FPC Sunday school and midweek program teachers and volunteers

Introduction (all music and education staff and volunteers please stand)

Prayer

Commissioning / Pastor Jay addresses the volunteers.

Volunteers respond:

*We have heard God's call to teach and have responded to that call.
We teach, trusting in God's promises to support, sustain, and encourage us through gifts sufficient for the task.
We teach, relying on prayer and the presence of the Holy Spirit.
We teach, inviting others to recognize and respond to God's call in their own lives.
We teach, depending on this congregation to uphold us in this task.*

Congregation responds:

**We pledge ourselves to pray for you and for the educational ministry of this congregation.
We pledge ourselves to empower, encourage, and love you in this ministry.
We pledge ourselves to be learners with you, cultivating and nurturing our own relationship with the Lord; looking to the Scriptures and traditions of the faith.**

◆ **Passing of the Peace**

*The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Let us share a sign of the peace of Christ with one another!*

The Word

Prayer for Illumination (please be seated)

Lee J. Afdahl

O Lord our God, your word is a lamp to our feet and a
light to our path. Give us grace to re - ceive your truth in
faith and love, that we may be o - be - dient
to your will and live al - ways for your glo - ry through
Je - sus Christ our Sav - vior A - - - men.

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Reading from the Epistles

James 3:13-4:3,7-8a

Anthem (8:30)

The Best of Rooms
Chancel Choir

Randall Thompson

Christ, He requires still, wheresoe'er He comes, to feed, or lodge, to have the best of rooms:
Give Him the choice; grant Him the nobler part of all the house: the best of all's the heart.
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(11:00) Amazing Grace (See hymn 649 for text.)
Michael Cutrer, tenor

Time for All Our Young Worshippers

Hymn 487 (stanza 1)

These Treasured Children

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

These treasured children present now are bound to us by sacred vow:
with love, we make a heartfelt claim to welcome them in Jesus' name.

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Pass Prayer Cards to the aisle. An usher will collect them.

Children through third grade may go to room E206 for Kids' Zone or are welcome to stay with
their parents in worship. Children above third grade should stay in worship.

Reading from the Gospel

Mark 9:30-37

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia hymn 591 (refrain)

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

HALLE, HALLE

Message

The Child Within

Rev. Jay P. Rowland

** A Moment for Reflection **

Our Response

◆ **Hymn 457**

How Happy Are the Saints of God (Psalm 1)

WAREHAM

◆ **Affirmation of Faith**

I believe ...

that the gospel of Jesus Christ is true!
that growing to maturity in Christ takes work
that courageous honesty of heart and soul is required
that worship is wonderful
that each person is a treasure regardless of age, assets or abilities
that God's church is a community of hope to sustain the world.

(adapted, *Silvia Purdie, www.conversations.net.nz*)

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer (using 'debts' and 'debtors')

Offertory

At the Offertory

(8:30)

Blessed Are They (Psalms 1, 119, Ephesians 3)

Carolyn Jennings

Chancel Choir; Carolyn Beck, flute

Blessed are they who take delight in the living Word of God, for they, like trees along a stream, grow strong in all they do, deeply rooted in the Word, ever nourished by the Word; and the fruit of a holy life is good.

The Word enlightens all who strive to know and do God's will: A lamp to guide us on our way, a light upon our path, for the law of God is true, and the grace of God is pure, and the fruit of a holy life is good.

All you hearers of the Word, rejoice and offer thanks for love so deep and broad and high, and praise for life so full, deeply rooted in the Word, ever nourished by the Word. And the fruit, the fruit of the holy life is good, life is good.

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(11:00)

Children of the Heavenly Father

Lois McClusky

- ◆ **Offertory Response 606** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDRETH
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

◆ **Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Loving God, thank you for the kindness we have received through your church.
Lead us so that we will gladly share our gifts. Bless these offerings to sustain
our mission to those in need in our community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Sending

- ◆ **Hymn 839** Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine! ASSURANCE

◆ **Benediction**

- ◆ **Response 541** (stanza one) God Be with You Till We Meet Again RANDOLPH
God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God

Bach/Fox

Those who wish may be seated for the postlude. Our music is offered to the glory of God; if you want to express your appreciation, a spoken "Amen" or "Praise God" is appropriate.

About Our Church

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Pastor
Rev. Jay P. Rowland, Associate Pastor
Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music/Organist

Susan K. Kruger, Office Administrator
Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager
Diane M. Johnston, Custodian

Office hours: Monday-Thursday (7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.); Friday (7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.); Saturday (9:30 a.m.-noon)

First Presbyterian Church; 512 SW Third Street / Rochester, MN 55902; 507/282-1618
rochesterfpc@msn.com; www.fpcrochester.org

*The mission of First Presbyterian Church of Rochester
is to reflect God's love for all people by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Member: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Calendar for the week of September 20 – September 27 (and beyond)

TODAY – September 20

We thank all who are sharing their ministries in worship today.

The **chancel flowers** are given for the Glory of God by Terri Vrtiska and Bernie Swenson in memory of Doris Vrtiska and Hilma Swenson.

A **nursery** for infants through 2-year-olds is staffed throughout the morning. We also offer a quiet space for nursing mothers. An usher would be happy to direct you if you don't know where the nursery is located.

Education hour:

Nursery - preschool (3-year-old class): go directly to your classrooms at 9:40 a.m.

9:40-10:20: Calvin Choir for grades 2-5

9:40-10:20: Sunday school for age 3-grade 1

9:40-10:45: Sunday school/education hour for grades 6 – adult education

10:20-10:50: Cherub Choir for age 4–grade 1

10:20-11:00: Sunday school for grade 2-5

Adults:

9:40 a.m.: *Kerygma Bible Study* in south fireside room ... *Matthew*

9:40 a.m.: *Current Issues* in Sheldon Jackson lounge ... *Culture Update: empathy and "On a Plate"*

9:40 a.m.: *Parenting Class* in room A-101 ... *"Grace Based Parenting"*

Chancel Choir rehearses at 9:45 a.m.

Sign up in the atrium today to attend next Sunday's **celebration and lunch** in honor of the 25th anniversary of Rev. Parlette's ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament.

WEDNESDAY – September 23

Madrigal Singers rehearse at 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday programming continues on the new schedule:

Wednesday Activities	
4:15	Alleluia Ringers (grades 2-5)
5:00	Youth Choir (grades 6-12)
5:45	Supper (suggested donation \$4/person or \$10 max/family)
6:15	Middle School youth group (grades 6-8)
6:15	Senior High youth group (grades 9-12)
6:30	Adult Bible study— <i>Christians and Patriotism, pt 2</i>
7:15	Joyous Praise handbells (grades 6-12)

THURSDAY – September 24

Jubilate Deo Bells rehearses at 6:15 p.m.

Chancel Choir rehearses at 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY – September 27

Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Join us for lunch after the second service

(about 12:30 p.m.) when we will honor Rev. Parlette's 25 years as a minister of the Word and Sacrament. There is no charge for the meal, but a freewill donation will be accepted. Sign up in the atrium September 20 or call the church office.

TUESDAY – September 29

Forums@First will present a panel discussion on mental health issues, titled "Desperate Times Made Worse," at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

For Your Information

The Worship and Music Committee has just published "**Stained Glass Splendor**," a book about the history and meaning of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary and library. You can buy a copy in the atrium or office for \$15. Make check to "FPC."

A search committee has been formed and is receiving applications for a part-time **Youth & Christian Education Coordinator**. For information about qualifications and an application, see the posting on the Presbytery website:

<http://www.presbyterytwincities.org/EmploymentOpportunities>

Get your **church calendar for 2015-2016** so you can plan for the church's yearlong cycle of activities.

Wednesday Night Suppers. Needed: Volunteers to prepare a simple, tasty supper on Wednesdays for 25-30 people. The group includes youth (choristers, bell ringers, and youth fellowship students), staff, and Bible study attendees. Please consider taking a turn for one or several meals. Contact the church office (Sue Kruger) for more information and for available dates.

Have you signed up for your Good News?

You're off to college or an out-of-town job. Have you (or your parents) made arrangements to have the church newsletter sent to you? Call the church office (282-1618) and we'll be happy to add your name to either the mailed or weekly e-mail version (or both).

Among the Church Family

Congratulations to Edith Albrecht, who will celebrate her 103rd birthday September 27.

Congratulations to Alfred and Ursula Thedens who will celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary September 25.

Congratulations to Derald and Sandra Holloway who will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary September 27.

Congratulations to Diane Johnston and Lori Arthur who were married August 29.

"Desperate Times Made Worse"

Forums@First focuses
on mental health issues

Tuesday, September 29 – 7 p.m.

- Did you know that Minnesota officials estimate that each year 300-400 children with a mental health illness in Minnesota go untreated because of the shortage of mental health inpatient beds?
- Did you know that in many counties, facilities that might be available for mental health treatment services are over 200 miles away, and the waiting period for services is up to 60 days?
- Come and join local legislators, county commissioners and other public officials at the September 29 "Forums@First." Dr. Gabrielle Melin, Ronna Campell, and others will discuss the crisis we are facing in Rochester and in Minnesota with the shortage of mental health services. Dr. Casey Clements will moderate the panel.

(K. J. Aalderks, Social Concerns Committee)