

First Presbyterian Church



512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 507-282-1618

Service for the Lord's Day
July 30, 2023
Ordinary Time

10:00 A.M.

Welcome to worship

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

Gathering

Prelude I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light Wayne Wold

Greeting and Welcome

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

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

Dudley Parsons

We seek the Kingdom of Heaven:

Where the smallest seeds turn into great plants.

We seek the Kingdom of Heaven:

As precious as pearls or treasure.

We seek the Kingdom of Heaven:

Where joy and abundance reign.

Let us worship the Lord.

◆ **Hymn 19** God of Great and God of Small GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

Call to Reconciliation

We love God. We are Christ's disciples. We are guided by the Spirit, and yet there are many ways we do not live out this reality. Let us call upon the Spirit to intercede for us in our time of confession.

◆ Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Spirit, intercede...

**When we fall short of your glory,
When we do not deserve your promises,
When we do not act like those
who have been called your family.**

Spirit, intercede...

**When our words wound,
When our silence speaks volumes,
When our actions are a far cry
from what you would have us do.**

Spirit, intercede...

**Break forth into our lives,
Forming us into the image of your Son,
That we might never feel separate from you again. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Lamb of God (Hymn 555)

LAND OF REST

O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins
of the world; have mer - cy on us,
Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.

Words of Life

Beloved, hear this good news:

God is for us. Not even our sins can separate us from the love of God.

Glory be to God for this grace and mercy! Amen.

◆ Gloria Patri

Lee Afdahl

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the
Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the be - gin - ning, is
now and ev - er shall be. World with - out end. A - men.

Time for Young Worshipers

◆ **Passing of the Peace**

Please refrain from shaking hands and greet each other with a word of peace or a wave of the hand.

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

**Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the Scriptures are read
and your Word is proclaimed,
we may hear with joy
what you said to us today. Amen.**

Reading from the Old Testament

1st Kings 3:5-12

Acclamation of Praise (Hymn 587)

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

The Kingdom of Heaven in 5 Parables

Rev. T.J. Parlette

Our Response

◆ **Hymn 459**

O Word of God Incarnate

MUNICH

◆ **Affirmation of Faith**

adapted from 1st John 3:22-4:12

We believe that God is love, and this love was perfectly revealed to us when God sent Jesus Christ into the world. We believe that God destined Jesus to be the Savior of all humankind, by making him the pure and sufficient sacrifice that took away our sins and restored us to wholeness.

We believe that God dwells within us by the power of the Holy Spirit. And within the community of the Spirit, God calls us to be the church of Jesus Christ, and to love and serve one another for his name's sake. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

(using 'debts' and 'debtors')

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Go, my Children with my Blessing Frank Stoldt

◆ **Offertory Response (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.

◆ **Unison Prayer of Dedication**

O Lord, we dedicate our lives to you this day and seal that promise by way of this offering. We give out of the abundance of our hearts, that the treasure of your kingdom may be shared with many. Thank you for giving us grateful hearts and a spirit of generosity for the flourishing of your heavenly realm. Amen.

Sending

◆ **Hymn 835** Just a Closer Walk with Thee CLOSER WALK

◆ **Benediction**

Postlude Fanfare C.S. Lang

The chancel flowers are given by Shirley Service in loving memory of John and her grandsons, Grant and Thomas.

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Please see the *Stained Glass Window* for a full list of church activities.

Stained Glass Window

What is happening around FPC ...
Week of July 30, 2023



This Week's Calendar

- † **Sunday, July 30**
Worship – 10:00am in-person & livestreamed
Message: *The Kingdom of Heaven in 5 Parables*,
Rev. T.J. Parlette
- † **Tuesday, August 1**
Lee Afdahl in concert – 12:15pm
Trinity Lutheran Summer Organ Recitals
Committee meetings
Some committees meet, check with your lead
- † **Wednesday, August 2**
Adult Bible Study – 6:30pm
- † **Friday, August 4**
McClocklin Memorial Service – 11am
- † **Sunday, August 6**
Worship – 10:00am in-person & livestreamed
Message: *An Odd Time for a Picnic*,
Rev. T.J. Parlette



Afdahl Returns to Downtown Organ Recitals

Lee Afdahl, Director of Music Emeritus, is the featured artist on Tuesday, August 1, at 12:15 p.m. in the *Downtown Organ Recital* at Trinity Lutheran Church. All are welcome to come and listen!



CALL TO MEETING



Session has called a
Meeting of the Congregation
On
Sunday August 6 at 11:15 a.m.
to hear a report and recommendations from the Personnel & Administration Committee regarding terms of call for the Associate Pastor position at FPC.

A Communication Conundrum

There is often talk about a need for better communication and then subsequent questions as to why there is so much difficulty knowing what is going on. We have many sources of information available for communication, and the biggest one is ... YOU! When you have an activity or project you want advertised ... let our office staff know. When you are going to or have participated in an activity or project and you want others to know about it ... let our office staff know. If you have the next big idea and you want to share it with someone ... let our office staff know. We will make every effort to ensure your information gets communicated, but you have to **let our office staff know**.

Next week, we'll have some tips on pointers on accessing our different sources of information.



Every one counts!

I'm an avid player of Yahtzee, in which you roll five dice to collect different number combinations. It's a game of both chance and strategy. Because it seems less problematic to accept a roll that's short by one point rather than a roll that's short by, say, six, every so often I'm disappointed to discover I've missed winning by only one point.

We do something similar in church and other parts of life: dismiss a child's idea as less important than an adult's; worry more about pleasing the "big givers" at church than the ones who contribute less; check in on the longtime member who misses worship once but forget about the newcomer who attended twice, then didn't return.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, leaves 99 sheep in order to go after just one who is lost. May we learn from his example that everyone — every one — counts.

—Heidi Mann
excerpted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

Condolences . . .

We extend our condolences to **Susan McClocklin** and the family and friends of *Robert McClocklin*, who died on July 24. A memorial service will be held on Friday, August 4 at 11:00 a.m. followed by a luncheon reception.

We extend our condolences to **Carol and Titus Evans** on the death of Carol's brother, Loren Peterson, on July 24.



With Deepest Sympathy



Birthdays . . .

30 July

◆ Mary Ellen Brown, Paul Herr & Phyllis Schmid

31 July

◆ Jeff Remfert

1 August

◆ Chris Bauch

3 August

◆ Elizabeth Thomson & Jennifer Zmolek

5 August

◆ Connie Larson

Anniversaries

31 July

♥ Brent & Christi Buchan

♥ James & Janiece Claire

1 August

♥ John & Suzanne Dinusson

3 August

♥ Tony & Judy Smithson

♥ Tim & Lindsay Zetsche

4 August

♥ Phil & Vicki Wintheiser

5 August

♥ Tom & Vicky Pileggi

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Senior Pastor
Rev. Jay P. Rowland, Associate Pastor
John E. Stender, Director of Music and Organist
Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music Emeritus
Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager
Jesse Copley, Custodian

Cindy Kunzman, Office Manager
Sarah A. Stender, Music Associate
Janine M. Yanisch, First Players bands
Paul Herr, Security
Than Boutelle, Custodian/Sunday Host
Margie Schaaf, Sunday Host

Sunday worship in-person and livestreamed on YouTube at 10:00 a.m.;
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church / 512 Third Street SW / Rochester, MN 55902
(507) 282-1618; web@fpcrochester.org; www.fpcrochester.org

*First Presbyterian Church is an
inclusive community celebrating God with:*
†Energy †Intelligence †Imagination †Love

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