

# First Presbyterian Church



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512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 507-282-1618

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**Service for the Lord's Day**  
**September 3, 2023**  
**Ordinary Time**

**10:00 A.M.**

## *Welcome to worship*

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

## *Gathering*

### **Prelude**

Chorale Prelude on "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness," BWV 654

J.S. Bach

### **Greeting and Welcome**

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

### **Opening Prayer**

### **Call to Worship**

Mary Huie

*God calls us each by name as we gather on holy ground.*

**We come to this place, seeking to know the great I AM.**

*Let us worship God.*

### ◆ **Hymn 406**

We Are Standing on Holy Ground  
*repeat three times*

HOLY GROUND

### **Call to Reconciliation**

*The apostle Paul tells us: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." For the times we have failed to do this, let us confess to God.*

### **Unison Prayer of Confession**

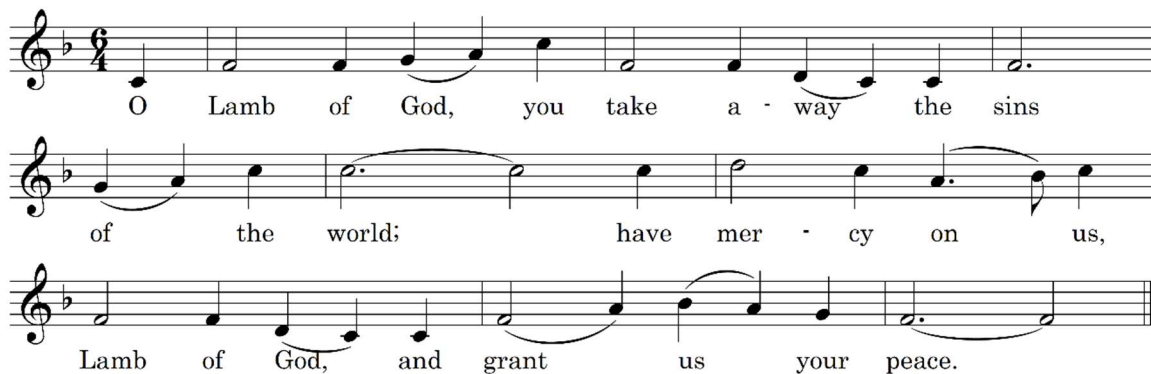
**Sometimes it sounds too hard: deny ourselves, take up our crosses, lose our lives? Forgive us, Lord, but we'd rather you do it for us. Forgive us, Christ, but we are overwhelmed with what you ask us. We long to see you come in glory, but fear the road we must take. Have mercy on our weakness. Be patient with our stumbling. Do not leave us behind, even when we are slow to follow, and lead us in your ways of peace. Amen.**

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

## 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

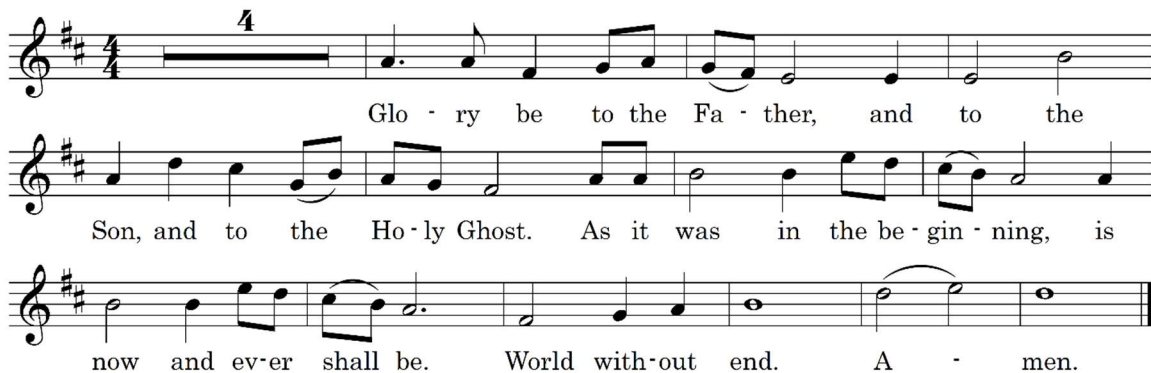
*My friends, Christ does not abandon us, but died for us, was raised for us, and loves us still. This is the good news that prevails!*

**In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are forgiven!**

**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

**Holy, Holy, Holy One,  
guide us by the Spirit of truth  
to hear the Word of life you speak,  
and to give all glory, honor, and praise  
to your threefold name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Reading from the Gospels**

Matthew 16:21-28

**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 Epistles**

Romans 12:9-21

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

*Paul's Covenant*

Rev. T.J. Parlette

***Our Response***

- ◆ **Hymn 460**                      Break Thou the Bread of Life                      BREAD OF LIFE
- ◆ **Affirmation of Faith**                      from *A Brief Statement of Faith PC(USA), Part 3*

**In life and death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that  
nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of  
God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory**                      “There Is a Balm in Gilead”                      arr. Mark Hayes

◆ **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**

**Almighty God, receive these gifts that we offer with grateful  
hearts and use us for your ministry in the world, through  
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

## ***Celebration of the Lord’s Supper***

### **Invitation**

### **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer**

### **Words of Institution**

### **Distribution of the Elements**

Please come forward to be served using the center aisle. If you wish to be served in the pew, a server will be in the side aisle to assist you.

### **Music at Communion**

Hymn Prelude on “Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

arr. David Lasky

### **Prayer after Communion**

## ***Sending***

◆ **Hymn 727**                      Will You Let Me Be Your Servant                      THE SERVANT SONG

◆ **Benediction**

**Postlude**                      Toccata Giocosa                      Gilbert M. Martin

The flowers are given with joy by Cindy Kunzman  
in observance of her parent’s wedding anniversary.

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

# Stained Glass Window

We're glad you are here!

What is happening around FPC ...  
Week of September 3, 2023



## THE COUNTDOWN

In just **ONE week**, our fall program schedule will begin. Next week, we look forward to returning to two Sunday morning worship services, and christian formation opportunities in the form of Sunday school, music rehearsals, and fellowship!



## This Week's Calendar

- † **Sunday, September 3**  
Worship & Communion – 10am  
in-person & livestreamed  
Message: *Paul's Covenant*,  
Rev. T.J. Parlette
- † **Monday, September 4**  
Labor Day—the church office is closed!
- † **Tuesday, September 5**  
Deacons & various committees meet
- † **Wednesday, September 6**  
Adult Bible Study – 6:30 p.m.  
in the Sheldon Jackson Lounge
- † **Friday, September 8**  
Do not despair—Sitter Service will be NEXT  
Friday, September 15, from 5:30-9pm
- † **Sunday, September 10**  
Worship – 8:30am in-person & livestreamed  
Message: *The Path of Reconciliation*,  
Rev. T.J. Parlette  
Kick-Off Sunday Celebration  
Sunday School Scavenger Hunt  
Ice Cream Sundaes in the Social Hall  
Meeting of the Session—10:40am  
Worship – 11am in-person & livestreamed  
New member recognition

## ALWAYS ACCEPTING CALENDAR UPDATES

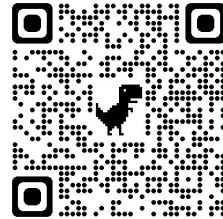
Thank you to everyone who has confirmed or updated your activity schedules. Please remember to continue contacting the office with items for our church calendar when you are planning your activities.

The information is available on the calendar link on our church website, in the weekly *Good News* email, and published here.



## OPPORTUNITY ABOUND

With a new church calendar come new opportunities to serve. Some are repeats but others are unique to the church program year. Please use the following link to access our Sign-Up Genius links to sign yourself up. You do not have to have an account to sign up. Our [MEMBERS] page.



## Where Might You Help?

Maybe you like to **work outdoors**. We need people to water flowers throughout the summer and then help clean up the flower beds both this fall and next spring.

Do you want to interact with the younger crowd? We can use **teachers** and/or **nursery volunteers** both on Sunday mornings and other times during the week or month.

What about play activity? Our **Sitter Service** program provides the parents of young children with a free night out one time each month. We provide the arts & crafts, music, story time and free play all in a safe environment.

Maybe your talents lie more in the area of **hospitality** and the **culinary arts**. We are always looking for volunteers to assist in the kitchen, both during regular activities and for event receptions.

Let us *not* forget **Sunday morning worship** when it literally takes a village to fill all of the roles. We need **liturgists, ushers, greeters, counters, communion servers** ... the list goes on.

And then there is **leadership!** The church Nominating Committee will be convening soon to compile a slate of candidates for members on Session and the Board of Deacons. Please consider these roles that are necessary to make our church function.

Use the link above to check out just what might be right for **YOU!** It won't cost you a thing. If you don't find what you are looking for, call the church office and we can point you in the right direction. ➔

# Church



# Family

## Birthdays...

### 4 September

◆ Andrea Andresen

### 5 September

◆ Than Boutelle

### 6 September

◆ Myron Rostad

### 7 September

◆ Marion Pitts

### 8 September

◆ Cecelia Lenn

## Anniversaries

### 3 September

♥ David & Jennifer Ellefson

### 7 September

♥ George & Mary Bayrd



**All** are welcome and encouraged to provide news and information that will be included in this section highlighting **Church Family News**.

## RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS

Next Sunday, we will be receiving a class of new members during the 11am worship service. There is a **called meeting of the Session at 10:40am** for the purpose of examining these new members. The meeting will be held in the Sheldon Jackson Lounge.

We will be recognizing:

**Meg and Eli Curtiss**, transferring from Plainview Community Presbyterian Church;

**Brett & Joanne Lamberty**, joining by reaffirmation of faith;

**Rev. David & Sharon McBeth**, joining by reaffirmation of faith; and

**Al & Joanne Schuetz**, transferring from First Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, TN.

Please join in welcoming these new members.

## SITTER SERVICE RESUMES

Monthly Sitter Service (for children between the age of 6 months to 10 years) resumes on September 15 from 5:30-9pm. It will continue going forward on the **2nd Friday** of the month until May. Watch next weeks communications for more information.

## A CHURCH FAMILY HAPPENING



Savannah Boswell will be performing in her debut appearance with the Rochester Civic Theatre in the supporting cast of *Matilda the Musical*, which runs Thursday, September 14, through October 1. Grab a group of friends and come on out to support this young member.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Senior Pastor  
John E. Stender, Director of Music and Organist  
Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music Emeritus  
Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager  
Jesse Copley, Custodian  
Than Boutelle, Custodian/Sunday Host

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

Sunday worship in-person and livestreamed on YouTube at 10am;  
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9am – 4pm

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.)