

July 7, 2024; 9:00 a.m.
Summer Series: "Seeds of Faith – Created for Growth"

We Gather Together

Welcome to today's Service of Worship. Whether you are with us in person, joining us live on zoom, watching on our YouTube channel, or listening on KFIZ, we are glad you are here. For those in person, please use the time before worship to fill in the Friendship Pad in your pew. We extend a special welcome to our visitors, and if you have not already received your welcome gift, please pick one up as you leave the sanctuary after worship.

Copies of the Glory to God hymnal and Common English Bibles are available at the back of the sanctuary for your use during worship.

Prelude: "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" *arr. Robert J. Powell*
"Winchester Old" *arr. by Gerre Hancock*

Welcome & Announcements *Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin*

Ringling of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ

The Parable of the Sower - Mark 4:1-20 (Amplified Bible)
(page 38 in the pew Bible, page 1219 Common English Bible)

Again Jesus began to teach beside the sea [of Galilee]. And a very large crowd gathered around Him, so He got into a boat [anchoring it a short distance out] on the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the shore. And He taught them many things in parables, and in His teaching He said to them, "Listen! A sower went out to sow seed; and as he was sowing, some seed fell by the road, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocks where there was not much soil; and immediately a plant sprang up because the soil had no depth. And when the sun came up, the plant was scorched; and because it had no root, it dried up and withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. And other seed fell into good soil, and as the plants grew and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundred times [as much as had been sown]." And He said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear and heed My words."

***Call to Worship**

Jolene S., Liturgist

We praise Creation's God:

Blessing and honor, glory and power!

Let each single voice praise God:

Blessing and honor, glory and power!

Let all voices together praise God:

Blessing and honor, glory and power!

Let the great multitude of nations praise God:

Blessing and honor, glory and power!

With all Creation we praise God:

Blessing and honor, glory and power!

*** Opening Prayer**

O God, we gather together in your presence with expectation, hungry for an encounter with you, eager to hear your Word. Open our eyes and ears to the presence of your Holy Spirit. May the seeds of your Word scattered among us this morning fall on fertile soil. May they take root in our hearts and lives, and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Sung Response: GTG 25 "O Lord, Our God, How Excellent"**

Linda D., Jonathon P., Cantors

***Call to Confession**

Jolene S., Liturgist

We read in Romans 5, "*The love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us... God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners Christ died for us.*" Confident in God's grace, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

***Prayer of Confession**

Jolene S., Liturgist

Creator God, as we are made in your image, we give you thanks for the seed of creativity you planted within each person. Forgive us we pray, for those times we have squandered with aimless disregard our capacity to create, and for those times we have used our creativity as a force for destruction rather than reparation.

Silent Confession

(In the silence of our hearts we confess our sins to God.)

God of grace and growth, **help us truly to live in appreciative awe of the creativity that you have planted within. Give us the patience and courage to nourish that creativity, and the strength and persistence to express it. Amen**

***Assurance of God's Grace**

Fear not, for our creator, the loving maker of all reality, forgives us, and redeems us from violence and oppression. God sows the good news in tiny seeds, inviting us to tend the soil of community, and marvel as they grow. In the name of Jesus, who is the Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

***Sharing God's Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

(Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you using the ancient formula 'The Peace of Christ.' 'And also, with you.' Please be mindful of those who do not wish to shake hands or be too close. We encourage you to use this time to send a text or emoji to someone who cannot be here.)

***Sung Response: GTG 581 "Glory be to the Father"**

God's Word Is Proclaimed

Psalm Reading: Psalm 8 (Common English Bible)
(page 492 in the pew Bible, page 669 Common English Bible)

Lord, our Lord, how majestic
is your name throughout the earth!
You made your glory higher than heaven!
**From the mouths of nursing babies
you have laid a strong foundation
because of your foes,
in order to stop vengeful enemies.**
When I look up at your skies,
at what your fingers made—

the moon and the stars
that you set firmly in place—
**what are human beings
that you think about them;
what are human beings
that you pay attention to them?**

You've made them only slightly less than divine,
crowning them with glory and grandeur.

**You've let them rule over your handiwork,
putting everything under their feet—**

all sheep and all cattle,
the wild animals too,
the birds in the sky,
the fish of the ocean,
everything that travels the pathways of the sea.

**Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the
earth!**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1-5a, 9-11, 24-31 (Common English Bible)

(page 1 in the pew Bible, page 1 Common English Bible)

When God began to create the heavens and the earth— the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God's wind swept over the waters— God said, "Let there be light." And so light appeared. God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness. God named the light Day and the darkness Night.

God said, "Let the waters under the sky come together into one place so that the dry land can appear." And that's what happened. God named the dry land Earth, and he named the gathered waters Seas. God saw how good it was. God said, "Let the earth grow plant life:

plants yielding seeds and fruit trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind throughout the earth.” And that’s what happened.

God said, “Let the earth produce every kind of living thing: livestock, crawling things, and wildlife.” And that’s what happened. God made every kind of wildlife, every kind of livestock, and every kind of creature that crawls on the ground. God saw how good it was. Then God said, “Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth.”

God created humanity in God’s own image,
in the divine image God created them,
male and female God created them.

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and master it. Take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, and everything crawling on the ground.” Then God said, “I now give to you all the plants on the earth that yield seeds and all the trees whose fruit produces its seeds within it. These will be your food. To all wildlife, to all the birds in the sky, and to everything crawling on the ground—to everything that breathes—I give all the green grasses for food.” And that’s what happened. God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good.

Children’s Time

Jolene Schry

***Hymn: GTG 24 “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”**

Sermon: “The Creative Sower”

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

We Respond to God's Word

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

The Practice of Gratitude

In response to God's Word and remembering all things come from God, we offer with thanks a portion of that which God has entrusted to us. The ushers will collect God's tithes and our offerings. For those who have given in other forms, there are cards in the pew racks that you may use as a tangible action of gratitude to God. No matter what we return to God in material forms, may we spiritually place our hearts, and our very lives, in God's hands, to be re-shaped for ministry in Christ, furthering God's kingdom here on earth.

Offering Music: "Pastorale on Holy Manna" *arr. by Gordon Young*

***Offertory:** GTG 607 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***Offertory Prayer**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

GTG 507 “Come to the Table of Grace”

(Remain seated, we sing this song as the table is being prepared for communion)

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

This is neither a Presbyterian table, nor even the church’s table. This is the Lord’s table. It is prepared for those who love the Lord and for those who desire to love him more. All who believe in Jesus Christ are welcome to share in this meal.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Creator God, we give you thanks because all things are of your making, all times and seasons obey your laws. You have chosen to create us in your own image, setting us over the whole world in all its wonder. You have made us stewards of your creation, to praise you day by day for the marvels of your wisdom and power.

Father, we give you thanks and praise for your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. He is the image of the unseen God, the firstborn of all creation. He is first to be born from the dead. All perfection is found in him, and all things were reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross. The Church is his body, and Christ is its head.

O God who is known to us in human flesh, we pray for peace in every land. We pray for the peoples of the world, for your peace to sprout in the midst of the hard-hearted situations of violence, war, and terrorism. Stir us from our complacency, to participate more in your mission to care for the needs of the sick, the poor, and the lonely; to free people from sin, suffering, and oppression; and to establish Christ’s just, loving, and peaceable rule in the world. May all who suffer violence and injustice find peace and reconciliation. We pray for all those who are in need of healing – healing in body, mind and spirit. We pray that the light of Christ will illuminate your all-encompassing love in those lives that are darkened by the storms of sorrow, distress, helplessness, and loss. Hear the prayers of our hearts, and transform us into the people you desire us to be.

Almighty and gracious God, send your Holy Spirit on us, cultivating relationships that produce comfort, joy, and hope. Send your Holy Spirit on these elements taken from your creation, that this loaf and this cup may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and we may be the body of Christ, food and life for the world. We ask these things through Christ, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit be glory now and forever. AMEN.

And now, lifting our voices together in unity, we pray the prayer Jesus taught:

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.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD – (words of institution]

SHARING OF THE MEAL

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.
Come, share in the mystery of this holy meal.

The Bread of Life

The Cup of Salvation

Music during communion:

“What You Have Done for Me” arr. by Paul A. Tate

PRAYER OF THANKS

Blessed are you Almighty God, creator of the cosmos and giver of life, to you be glory and praise for ever. In Jesus your light has shone upon us, and from the Holy Spirit a mighty stream of life-giving water cleanses and renews the whole earth. Let your light shine in us that we may be beacons of hope. Let the blessings of your love flow through us that we may bless those you place in our path. All glory and praise be yours, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Sending Hymn: Grey Bk 14 “How Majestic is Your Name”**

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude: “How Majestic is Your Name” *arr. by Phillip Keveren*

GETTING CONNECTED:

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[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](#)

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July Deacon of the Month:

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July Elder of the Month:

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PRAYERS

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Brian C. | Liam A. | Bob & Ollive B. | *Lynn K. |
| Pat D. | Marie L. | Danielle B. | *Ashley K. |
| Gib D. | Chastity G. | Nancy H. | *Mike S. |
| Arnold L. | Joan S. | Joyce J. | *Karen & David H. |
| Jesse F. | Sally S. | Mary J. | *Jim & Laura C. |
| | | Lorelei C. | |

The family of Burt Mayborne. You can read the obituary [here](#).

The names with an asterisk (*) are not church members. However, a church member has received permission to ask that they be lifted in prayer. If you or someone you know would like to be added to our prayer list, please contact a Deacon or the church staff.

If you have a pastoral concern, that happens before or after office hours, please call the office (920.922.0425), press #2 for Pastoral Care.

WEEKLY STATISTICS FOR June 30,2024

Individuals in Person: 85

Zoom Households: 5

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
06/30/2024	\$463.00	Tithes/Offerings
	\$.00	Pave the Way
6/24--28/24	\$731.00	Vanco Online "Tithes/Offerings"
	\$10.00	Vanco Online "Pave the Way"
	<u>\$1,204.00</u>	TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK

Financial Giving and Gratitude

You can give online at www.fdlpresbyterian.org. (Click on 'Giving'.) You can also give by cash or check on Sunday morning, or by mail. We are so very thankful for your contributions that help us do God's work in our church and in our community.