

July 21, 2024; 9:00 am
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: Abbot’s Leigh *arr. by Austin C. Lovelace*
(Passacaglia, Fughetta and Finale)

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 (*The Message*)
(page 38 in the pew Bible, page 1219 Common English Bible)

He went back to teaching by the sea. A crowd built up to such a great size that he had to get into an offshore boat, using the boat as a pulpit as the people pushed to the water’s edge. He taught by using stories, many stories.

“Listen. What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn’t put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled among the weeds and nothing came of it. Some fell on good earth and came up with a flourish, producing a harvest exceeding his wildest dreams.

“Are you listening to this? Really listening?”

When they were off by themselves, those who were close to him, along with the Twelve, asked about the stories. He told them, “You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom—you know how it works. But to those who can’t see it yet, everything comes in stories, creating readiness, nudging them toward a welcome awakening. These are people—

Whose eyes are open but don't see a thing,
Whose ears are open but don't understand a word,
Who avoid making an about-face and getting forgiven."

He continued, "Do you see how this story works? All my stories work this way.

"The farmer plants the Word. Some people are like the seed that falls on the hardened soil of the road. No sooner do they hear the Word than Satan snatches away what has been planted in them.

"And some are like the seed that lands in the gravel. When they first hear the Word, they respond with great enthusiasm. But there is such shallow soil of character that when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it.

"The seed cast in the weeds represents the ones who hear the kingdom news but are overwhelmed with worries about all the things they have to do and all the things they want to get. The stress strangles what they heard, and nothing comes of it.

"But the seed planted in the good earth represents those who hear the Word, embrace it, and produce a harvest beyond their wildest dreams."

***Call to Worship**

Carol W.

Hear the word of God:

"You shall be holy, for I am holy."

We choose holiness and reject futile thinking.

We look today at life and turn our eyes
from the vanities of this world.

We want to be holy, for the Lord is holy.

We affirm that we belong to Christ.

We crave his wisdom and his ways.

*** Opening Prayer**

You open our hearts, O God, as your showers of grace fall softly upon the loose soil of our dried-up dreams. Your words, O Lord, do not return empty to you. They take root deep within us. Move into our lives, Spirit of life, gently water the seeds planted in our hearts until they become bushels of grace.

***Sung Response: GTG 309 "Come, Great God of All the Ages" vs 1-3**

Linda D. and Jonathan P., Cantor

***Call to Confession**

Carol W., Liturgist

We are all invited to pray - all who have hurt someone else, and all who have been hurt by another. We are called to pray: for hope, for healing, for mercy.

We pray to the God of all creation, who seeks to make us whole and to restore us to new life. Join me as we pray, saying,

***Prayer of Confession**

Carol W.

We do not find it easy to speak of how we do not live as your people, but you invite us to share our weaknesses and failures with you. Tempted to think your salvation is for a select few, we put up barriers for others. Clinging to all you give to us, we are reluctant to share with those in need. Surrounded by evil and violence, we find it easier to be with those just like us, rather than seeking peace and reconciliation for our world.

Silent Confession

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

Forgive us, O God. Open our eyes to our sisters and brothers all around us. Open our ears to the word of hope you speak to us. Open our spirits to the presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who flings wide the open doors of your kingdom, that all might find life with you. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Here is the good news, my friends: Christ came searching for us, calling us by name, leading us into God's kingdom.

In Christ, we become new people: broken, we are made whole; lost, we are found; forsaken, we are restored to new life. Thanks be to God. Amen!

***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 1 (Common English Bible)

(page 489 in the pew Bible, page 665 Common English Bible)

The truly happy person
doesn't follow wicked advice,
doesn't stand on the road of sinners,
and doesn't sit with the disrespectful.

**Instead of doing those things,
these persons love the Lord's Instruction,
and they recite God's Instruction day and night!**

They are like a tree replanted by streams of water,
which bears fruit at just the right time
and whose leaves don't fade.

Whatever they do succeeds.

That's not true for the wicked!

They are like dust that the wind blows away.

And that's why the wicked will have no standing in the court of
justice—

neither will sinners
in the assembly of the righteous.

**The Lord is intimately acquainted
with the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked is destroyed.**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 55:8-13 (Common English Bible)

(page 686 in the pew Bible, page 901 Common English Bible)

My plans aren't your plans,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
Just as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my plans than your plans.

Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky
and don't return there without watering the earth,
making it conceive and yield plants
and providing seed to the sower and food to the eater,
so is my word that comes from my mouth;
it does not return to me empty.
Instead, it does what I want,
and accomplishes what I intend.

Yes, you will go out with celebration,
and you will be brought back in peace.
Even the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you;
all the trees of the field will clap their hands.
In place of the thorn the cypress will grow;
in place of the nettle the myrtle will grow.
This will attest to the Lord's stature,
an enduring reminder that won't be removed.

Children's Time

Jennifer Zander

***Hymn: GTG 451 "Open My Eyes, That I May See"**

Sermon: "Planted in God's Word"

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

Prayers of the People

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.**

We Respond to God's Word

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: "Morning Has Broken"

Handbells

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

***Offertory Prayer**

***Hymn: GTG 714 "God of the Fertile Fields" vs. 1-3**

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude: "Italian Hymn"

arr. by Gerhard Krapf

Keep in Prayer

Arnold L.	Jesse F.	Lorelei C.
Ashley K.*	Liam A.	Marie L.
Bob & Ollive B.	Joyce J.	Mary J.
Brian C.	Judy D.	Mike S.*
Chastity G. & Joan S.	Karen & David H.*	Pat D.
Danielle B.	Lynn K.*	Sally S.
Dick and Maryann*	Lynn M.	Sue C. *
Gib D.		

The names in **bold** are new to the prayer list. 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 JULY 14,2024

Individuals in Person: 92
Zoom Households: 5

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
07/14/2024	\$4316.95	Tithes/Offerings
	\$ 2000 .00	Pave the Way
7/08-- 12/24	\$1181.00	Vanco Online "Tithes/Offerings"
	\$10.00	Vanco Online "Pave the Way"
	<hr/>	
	\$7507.95	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.

GETTING CONNECTED:

Office Phone
920.922.0425

Office Email
fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org

Website
www.fdlpresbyterian.org

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

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

July Deacon of the Month:

Phyllis Munson

July Elder of the Month:

Deb Cooley

STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Craig R. Alwin
pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org

Jennifer Zander
jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

Kris Bartelt
kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org

Mary Robotka
mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org

Looking Ahead

Sunday	July 21
9:00-10:00am	Worship
10:15-11:15am	Fellowship Time
10:15-11:15am	Growing Connections – Joy filled Church Experiences
1:00-2:00pm	PYA at the Woodlands
6:30-7:45pm	The Chosen Season 4 Ep 3
Monday	July 22
10:00-11:30am	Staff Meeting
Tuesday	July 23
10:30-12:00pm	The Chosen Season 4 Ep 3
Wednesday	July 24
8:00-9:00am	Men's Breakfast
Sunday	July 28
9:00-10:00am	Worship
10:15-11:15am	Fellowship/Growing Connections – Power of Connecting
11:30-12:30pm	Learning Team Meeting
6:30-7:45pm	God's The Chosen Season 4 Ep 4