

September 1, 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: "Hymn to Joy"

arr. by Gerhard Krapf

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

Ringling of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ

The Parable of the Sower (Based on Mark 4:1-20)

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

***Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 100)**

Eddie H., liturgist

We gather to celebrate and joyfully sing to our God!

Together, let us share our praises and thankfulness.

Come, let us enter into this sacred space with praise.

You O God, are the Holy God always and forever!

You are the Eternal One from whom all things come.

Come, let us enter into this sacred space with thanks.

O God, we are your children, created by and with your love.

Come, let us enter into this sacred space with joy and delight. Amen.

*** Opening Prayer**

What mighty praise belongs to you, O God, for your acts of love and faithfulness toward us! From one end of the earth to the other, you inspire

worship and praise! Even nature celebrates your goodness. We too offer our praise and thanksgiving for your mercy and your faithful love toward us. Through the power of your Holy Spirit make your presence known among us so that your Word may take root in our lives. Amen.

***Sung Response: GTG 611 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”**

Carol W., Cantor

***Call to Confession**

Eddie H.

The God revealed to us in the pages of scripture is a welcoming and inclusive God who directs us to love one another. We seek to remove all the barriers that keep us from that love. Let us confess all that separates us from one another and from God.

***Prayer of Confession**

Eddie H.

God of Grace, **we bring to you our ingratitude for all that you have done for us, our impatience when prayers seem to be ignored, our selfishness when prompted to give or share, our unfaithfulness when wandering from your way.**

Silent Confession

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

We ask for your forgiveness, through Jesus Christ who gave all,
so that we might learn to do likewise. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.
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 65:1-13 (Common English Bible)

(page 527 in the pew Bible, page 712 Common English Bible)

God of Zion, to you even silence is praise.

Promises made to you are kept—

you listen to prayer—

and all living things come to you.

When wrongdoings become too much for me,

you forgive our sins.

How happy is the one you choose to bring close,

the one who lives in your courtyards!

We are filled full by the goodness of your house,

by the holiness of your temple.

In righteousness you answer us,

by your awesome deeds,

God of our salvation—

you, who are the security

of all the far edges of the earth,

even the distant seas.

You establish the mountains by your strength;

you are dressed in raw power.

You calm the roaring seas;

calm the roaring waves,

calm the noise of the nations.

Those who dwell on the far edges

stand in awe of your acts.

You make the gateways

of morning and evening sing for joy.

You visit the earth and make it abundant,
enriching it greatly
by God's stream, full of water.

**You provide people with grain
because that is what you've decided.**

Drenching the earth's furrows,
leveling its ridges,
you soften it with rain showers;
you bless its growth.

**You crown the year with your goodness;
your paths overflow with rich food.**

Even the desert pastures drip with it,
and the hills are dressed in pure joy.

**The meadowlands are covered with flocks,
the valleys decked out in grain—
they shout for joy;
they break out in song!**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (Common English Bible)
(page 691 in the pew Bible, page 908 Common English Bible)

The Lord God's spirit is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me
to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim release for captives,
and liberation for prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and a day of vindication for our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
to provide for Zion's mourners,
to give them a crown in place of ashes,
oil of joy in place of mourning,

a mantle of praise in place of discouragement.
They will be called Oaks of Righteousness,
planted by the Lord to glorify himself.
They will rebuild the ancient ruins;
they will restore formerly deserted places;
they will renew ruined cities,
places deserted in generations past.

I, the Lord, love justice;
I hate robbery and dishonesty.
I will faithfully give them their wage,
and make with them an enduring covenant.
Their offspring will be known among the nations,
and their descendants among the peoples.
All who see them will recognize
that they are a people blessed by the Lord.
I surely rejoice in the Lord;
my heart is joyful because of my God,
because he has clothed me with clothes of victory,
wrapped me in a robe of righteousness
like a bridegroom in a priestly crown,
and like a bride adorned in jewelry.
As the earth puts out its growth,
and as a garden grows its seeds,
so the Lord God will grow righteousness and praise before all the
nations.

Children's Time

Katy J.

***Hymn: GTG 729 "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"**

Sermon: "God's Garden"

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

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: "Herr Jesu Christ, Dich Zu Uns Wend"

arr. by J.S. Bach

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

***Offertory Prayer**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

** The word "catholic" means "relating to the church universal"*

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give thanks to you, O God, creator, redeemer, sustainer of all. You made your covenant with us, calling us to love and serve you. When we are wandering in sin you forgive us and lead us home. We give thanks for Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lived and died and rose for us, and is coming in glory to reign. Remembering Christ’s saving love, we celebrate this holy meal and offer ourselves to you, O God, with gratitude and praise.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God, on your people gathered here, and on these gifts of the loaf and the cup gathered from your creation. By your Spirit make us one body in Christ, one in mission and ministry to the world. Nourish us in faith, hope, and love, and strengthen us for service, until we feast with you in glory. All praise and honor and glory are yours, holy triune God, now and forever more. **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:

“Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

Carol W., soloist

“Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”

arr. by Donald Busarow

PRAYER OF THANKS

Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn: GTG 610 “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

vs. 1, 2, 4, 5

***Charge and Benediction**

We have been gathered together as simple seeds. By God's grace we have been given a new name, “Oaks of Righteousness.” The Spirit has been poured out upon us and scatters us into the world, to bless and rebuild the places where we live, to the glory and praise of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen, and amen.

Postlude: “Azmon”

arr. by Alfred V. Fedak

Keep in Prayer

Arnold L.	Dick and Maryann*	Marie L.
Ashley K.*	Gib D.	Mike S.*
Bob & Ollive B.	Jesse F.	Qualine S.* (Jodi A. mom)
Brian C.	Karen & David H.*	Pat D.
Chastity G. & Joan S.	Liam A.	Paul W.
Corinne C.	Lynn K.*	Sally S.
Danielle B.	Lynn M.	

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. Prayer request cards are available in the Prayer Box located in the Narthex, in the church pews, or online ([click here](#)). You can place your prayer request in the offering plate or the lock box at the church office door. For electronic prayer requests, please complete the form and click submit.

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.

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](#)

September

Deacon of the Month: Lew Smith

Elder of the Month: Mike Warntjes

STAFF:

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Financial Giving and Gratitude

You can give online at www.fdlpresbyterian.org [Giving page](#). (Click on 'Online 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.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday	September 1
9:00-10:00am	Worship
10:15-11:15am	Fellowship Time
10:15-11:15am	Growing Connections- Sermon Discussions
Monday	September 2
	Church Office Closed
Tuesday	September 3
1:00-2:30pm	Loving Team Meeting
Wednesday	September 4
8:00-9:00am	Men's Breakfast
10:30-11:45am	Growing Connections Planning
Thursday	September 5
1:00-2:00pm	Serving Team Meeting
Sunday	September 8
9:00-10:00am	Worship
10:15-11:15am	Fellowship Time
10:15-11:15am	Growing Connections- Alternative Gift Fair
10:15-11:15am	PYA-Youth Group Planning Meeting (Youth/Adults)
11:30-12:30pm	Learning Team Meeting