

September 8, 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: Improv on Holy, Holy, Holy
Nicaea

arr. by Charles Callahan
arr. by Robert Hebble

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

Ringing of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ

Unison Reading of The Parable of the Sower

Mark 4:1-20 (Contemporary English Version)

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

The next time Jesus taught beside Lake Galilee, a big crowd gathered. It was so large that he had to sit in a boat out on the lake, while the people stood on the shore. He used stories to teach them many things, and this is part of what he taught:

Now listen! A farmer went out to scatter seed in a field. While the farmer was scattering the seed, some of it fell along the road and was eaten by birds. Other seeds fell on thin, rocky ground and quickly started growing because the soil wasn't very deep. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched and dried up, because they did not have deep roots. Some other seeds fell where thornbushes grew up and choked out the plants. So they did

not produce any grain. But a few seeds did fall on good ground where the plants grew and produced 30 or 60 or even 100 times as much as was scattered. Then Jesus said, "If you have ears, pay attention."

When Jesus was alone with the twelve apostles and some others, they asked him about these stories. He answered: I have explained the secret about God's kingdom to you, but for others I can use only stories. The reason is, "These people will look and look, but never see. They will listen and listen, but never understand. If they did, they would turn to God and be forgiven."

Jesus then told them: If you don't understand this story, you won't understand any others. What the farmer is spreading is really the message about the kingdom. The seeds that fell along the road are the people who hear the message. But Satan soon comes and snatches it away from them. The seeds that fell on rocky ground are the people who gladly hear the message and accept it at once. But they don't have roots, and they don't last very long. As soon as life gets hard or the message gets them in trouble, they give up. The seeds that fell among the thornbushes are also people who hear the message. But they start worrying about the needs of this life. They are fooled by the desire to get rich and to have all kinds of other things. So the message gets choked out, and they never produce anything. The seeds that fell on good ground are the people who hear and welcome the message. They produce 30 or 60 or even 100 times as much as was planted.

***Call to Worship**

Cathy W., Liturgist

(Based on Leviticus 19, Psalm 119, 1 Corinthians 3)

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**

Holy One, ignite within us a fiery passion for your mission in the world today.
Warm us by the Spirit's dancing tongues of flame, that we may feel your

kindling blaze within, urging us to do your greater good. Make us wholly present to experience a new birth, and awaken possibilities within us to share your love in the world. In this love and abundance, we come to celebrate your harvest — a harvest bearing the first fruits of the Spirit within us. Show us how to use these gifts, as we listen for your truth in the gentle breeze of your Spirit. **Amen.**

***Sung Response: GTG 1 “Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”**

Laurie C., Cantor

***Call to Confession**

God created us with intention: to love and care for others. Without realizing it, we pursue our own selfish desires rather than helping those around us. Let us join our voices confessing our sins.

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful Lord, too often we fail to be devoted followers, loving and serving our neighbors. You know of the needs in this world and the capability that we have of meeting those needs through words and actions. We want good things to happen. We just aren't sure that we are up to the tasks you set before us. We place our trust in the wisdom of this world, forsaking the true gift of freedom you purchased on the cross.

Silent Confession

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

Create in us a new heart, O God. Forgive us when we so easily doubt your call, your presence, and your abiding love. Lift us out of our self-pity and self-centeredness, and open our eyes to see you in our neighbor. Fill our hearts with joy, praising you for opportunities to witness to your love in our service to your people. Heal us and restore us to live by the Spirit. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Christ has reached out in love on the cross for you. Your sins are forgiven. Receive God's loving blessings, as you share them with others. Be assured the Spirit is always present, bringing encouragement, strength, and peace.

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 16 (Common English Bible)

(page 495 in the pew Bible, page 673 Common English Bible)

Protect me, God, because I take refuge in you.

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord.

Apart from you, I have nothing good."

Now as for the "holy ones" in the land,
the "magnificent ones" that I was so happy about;
let their suffering increase because
they hurried after a different god.

I won't participate in their blood offerings;

I won't let their names cross my lips.

You, Lord, are my portion, my cup;

you control my destiny.

The property lines have fallen beautifully for me;
yes, I have a lovely home.

I will bless the Lord who advises me;

even at night I am instructed
in the depths of my mind.

I always put the Lord in front of me;

I will not stumble because he is on my right side.

That's why my heart celebrates and my mood is joyous;

yes, my whole body will rest in safety
because you won't abandon my life to the grave;
you won't let your faithful follower see the pit.

You teach me the way of life.

In your presence is total celebration.

Beautiful things are always in your right hand.

Scripture Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

(Common English Bible)

(page 190 in the pew Bible, page 1421 Common English Bible)

Christ has set us free for freedom. Therefore, stand firm and don't submit to the bondage of slavery again.

You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love. All the Law has been fulfilled in a single statement: *Love your neighbor as yourself*. But if you bite and devour each other, be careful that you don't get eaten up by each other!

I say be guided by the Spirit and you won't carry out your selfish desires. A person's selfish desires are set against the Spirit, and the Spirit is set against one's selfish desires. They are opposed to each other, so you shouldn't do whatever you want to do. But if you are being led by the Spirit, you aren't under the Law. The actions that are produced by selfish motives are obvious, since they include sexual immorality, moral corruption, doing whatever feels good, idolatry, drug use and casting spells, hate, fighting, obsession, losing your temper, competitive opposition, conflict, selfishness, group rivalry, jealousy, drunkenness, partying, and other things like that. I warn you as I have already warned you, that those who do these kinds of things won't inherit God's kingdom.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the self with its passions and its desires. If we live by the Spirit, let's follow the Spirit.

Children's Time

Jennifer Zander

***Hymn: GTG 302** "When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace"

Sermon: "Preparing the Soil of our Hearts"

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.

Moment for Mission: Loaves and Fishes

Mike P.

Offering Music: “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

Cantor and Congregation

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

***Offertory Prayer**

***Hymn: GTG 286** “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude: “Trentham”

arr. by Edwin T. Childs

Keep in Prayer

Arnold L.	Dick and Maryann*	Marie L.
Ashley K.* (Dave E Daughter)	Gib D.	Mike S.*
Bob & Ollive B.	Jesse F.	Qualine S.* (Jodi A mom)
Brian C.	Joan K. (Marcus A. Mom)	Pat D.
Bruce L.* (Arnold L's son)	Karen & David H.*	Paul W.
Chastity G. & Joan S.	Liam A.	Sally S.
Corinne C.	Lynn K.*	Sherry M.
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.

WEEKLY STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

Individuals in Person: 95
Zoom Households: 4

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
09/01/2024	\$2255.71	Tithes/Offerings
	\$.00	"Pave the Way"
8/26--30/24	\$481.00	Vanco Online "Tithes/Offerings"
	\$ 10.00	Vanco Online "Pave the Way"
	\$2746.71	TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK

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.

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:

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

9:00-10:00am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
11:30-12:30pm

September 8

Worship
Fellowship Time
Growing Connections- Alternative Gift Fair
PYA Youth Group Planning Meeting
Learning Team Meeting

Monday

10:00-11:03pm
1:00-2:30pm

September 9

Staff Meeting
Deacon Meeting

Wednesday

8:00-9:00am
1:00-2:30pm
5:30-7:30pm

September 11

Men's Breakfast
Personnel Team
Women in Faith

Sunday

9:00-10:00am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
1:00-2:00pm

September 15 Kick Off Sunday

Outdoor Worship in the Church Pavilion
Fellowship Time/Activities
Growing Connections- *Slow Church*
PYA Youth Group at the Woodlands