

August 4, 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: “Shout to the North”

arr. by Phillip Keveren

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

Ringling of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ

Choral Reading

Worship Team

The Parable of the Sower – Mark 4:1-20 (NRSV)

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

***Call to Worship** *(based on Romans 8:38-39)*

Kay M., Liturgist

For I am convinced that neither death nor life

Nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come

Nor powers nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation—

Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

There is nothing we can do, no place we can hide, where God will forget us.

God loves us, God forgives us, God calls us by name.

Let us worship our God who seeks us, finds us, and loves us! Amen.

*** Opening Prayer**

God of light, we come tired and weary, carrying many burdens. We come wondering if you are even here. We come seeking your face, seeking your love. In this moment, Holy One, open our hearts to the mystery of your love. Remind us that you are always with us and that you never leave us. Reassure us that you love us, even as you invite us to love one another. In this time and space, may we say “yes” to you. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Sung Response: GTG 319 “Men of Faith, Rise Up and Sing”**

Henry H., Cantor

***Call to Confession (Isaiah 30:18)**

Kay M., Liturgist

The Lord is waiting to be merciful and show us compassion. The Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all who wait for him. In faith, let us make our confession to God.

***Prayer of Confession**

Kay M., Liturgist

Merciful God, as we seek your love and light, there are times when darkness invades our lives, and our hearts become hardened. Forgive us when we hide our true selves from you. Forgive us when we quarrel with one another, allowing our pride to overcome our commitment to the community. Forgive us when we give life’s activities priority over following the ways of Christ.

Silent Confession

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

Gracious God, **open our hearts to your grace, as you once again soften our hearts fill us with your love and light. Amen.**

***Assurance of God’s Grace**

People of God, hear the good news of the gospel and rejoice! You are forgiven, and God’s grace sets you free to love again. Amen.

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 27:1, 4-9, 14 (Common English Bible)

(page 503 in the pew Bible, page 682 Common English Bible)

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Should I fear anyone?

The Lord is a fortress protecting my life.

Should I be frightened of anything?

I have asked one thing from the Lord—

it's all I seek:

to live in the Lord's house all the days of my life,

seeing the Lord's beauty

and constantly adoring his temple.

Because he will shelter me in his own dwelling

during troubling times;

he will hide me in a secret place in his own tent;

he will set me up high, safe on a rock.

Now my head is higher than the enemies surrounding me,

and I will offer sacrifices in God's tent—

sacrifices with shouts of joy!

I will sing and praise the Lord.

Lord, listen to my voice when I cry out—

have mercy on me and answer me!

Come, my heart says, seek God's face.

Lord, I do seek your face!

Please don't hide it from me!

Don't push your servant aside angrily—
you have been my help!

**God who saves me,
don't neglect me!
Don't leave me all alone!**

Hope in the Lord!

**Be strong! Let your heart take courage!
Hope in the Lord!**

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 33-40, 12:1-2 (Common English Bible)

(page 225 in the pew Bible, page 1465 Common English Bible)

Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see. The elders in the past were approved because they showed faith. By faith we understand that the universe has been created by a word from God so that the visible came into existence from the invisible.

Through faith they conquered kingdoms, brought about justice, realized promises, shut the mouths of lions, put out raging fires, escaped from the edge of the sword, found strength in weakness, were mighty in war, and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured and refused to be released so they could gain a better resurrection. But others experienced public shame by being taunted and whipped; they were even put in chains and in prison. They were stoned to death, they were cut in two, and they died by being murdered with swords. They went around wearing the skins of sheep and goats, needy, oppressed, and mistreated. The world didn't deserve them. They wandered around in deserts, mountains, caves, and holes in the ground.

All these people didn't receive what was promised, though they were given approval for their faith. God provided something better for us so they wouldn't be made perfect without us.

So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne.

Children's Time

Jennifer Zander

Sung Response: GTG 824 "There is a Place of Quiet Rest"

Sermon: "God Provided Something Better"

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

We Respond to God's Word

Moment for Mission:

Appreciation blessing and presentation to Cantors and AV people

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.

"Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver." – *2 Corinthians 9:7 (CEB)*

Offering Music: "Devotional Piece #31"

by Dom Paul Benoit

***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

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:

“Neither Death nor Life” by *Marty Haugen*, based on *Romans 8*
please join the cantor on the refrain

Nei-ther death, nor life nor an - gels, nor
5 rul - ers, nor trials in the pres - ent, nor an - y trial to
9 come, nei - ther height, nor depth, nor all of cre -
13 a - tion can ev - er sep - a - rate us from the
17 love of God poured out in Christ Je - sus our Lord.

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If needed: Come Share the Lord arr. by Fred Bock

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: GTG 765 “May the God of Hope Go with Us”**

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude: “Toccatà in the Style of Scarlatti”

by Gordon Young

Keep in Prayer

Arnold L.
 Ashley K.*
 Bob & Ollive B.
 Brian C.
 Chastity G. & Joan S.
Corinne C.
Danielle B.
 Dick and Maryann*
 Gib D.

Jesse F.
 Joyce J.
 Judy D.
Karen Rehn’s Father
 Karen & David H.*
 Liam A.
 Lynn K.*
Lynn M.
 Lorelei C.

Marie L.
 Mary J.
 Mike S.*
 Pat D.
Paul W.
 Sally S.
 Sue C. *

Mike Warntjes and family in the death of his mother, Eleanor.

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.

<u>WEEKLY STATISTICS FOR JULY 28,2024</u>		
Individuals in Person:	102	
Zoom Households:	5	
<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
07/28/2024	\$ 881.51	Tithes/Offerings
	\$.00	Pave the Way
7/22--26/24	\$1231.00	Vanco Online "Tithes/Offerings"
	\$10.00	Vanco Online "Pave the Way"
	<u>\$2122.51</u>	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
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Office Email
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Website
www.fdlpresbyterian.org

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

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

August Deacon of the Month:
Gail Kamphuis

August Elder of the Month:
Dave Erickson

STAFF:

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

Jennifer Zander
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Kris Bartelt
kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org

Mary Robotka
mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday	August 4
9:00-10:00am	Worship
10:15-11:15am	Fellowship Time/Cuban Mission Trip Presentation
11:30-12:30	Learning Team Meeting
6:30-7:45pm	The Chosen Season 4 Ep 5

Monday	August 5
10:00-11:30am	Staff Meeting
1:00-2:30pm	Deacon Meeting

Tuesday	August 6
10:30-12:00pm	The Chosen Season 4 Ep 5
1:00-2:30pm	Loving Team Meeting

Wednesday	August 7
8:00-9:00am	Men's Breakfast

Sunday	August 11
9:00-10:00am	Worship
10:15-11:15am	Fellowship Time
10:15-11:15am	Sermon Discussion
6:30-7:45pm	The Chosen Season 4 Ep 6