



JULY 12, 2020
SUNDAY WORSHIP

GATHERING

PRELUDE For the Fruit of All Creation

setting by David Cherwien

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Bible says, “where two or three are gathered.”

Many, in this moment, will gather no closer than six feet.

The Bible says, “They were all gathered together in one place.”

And we do not know when we will be together next.

Triune God, you exist in an eternal relationship.

You are One and yet are three.

In a time of isolation, draw us closer to this mystery.

May it remind us of your truth:

even in physical isolation, we are never truly alone.

Your love links us together, making us a people.

For the Bible also says: We belong to each other.

We belong to you.

Even now. Especially now. Amen.

HYMN NO. 36 For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYD Y NOS

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.

**For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.**

In the just reward of labor, God's will be done. In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.

**In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.**

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God. For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

**For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Before God's majesty and holiness, we become aware of the many ways we fall short of what God created us to be. We repent of our sin and ask God's forgiveness. We cannot earn God's forgiveness by our repentance. Nor can we ever be worthy of God's mercy. It is in the assurance of God's prior mercy given freely to the undeserving that we dare make our humble confession before God. Let us pray: forgive us Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from Hymn No.431

For grievance and injustice: forgive us Lord.

Alloofness and indifference: forgive us Lord.

For weakness and transgression: forgive us Lord.

Resistance and rebellion: forgive us Lord.

In your eternal mercy: forgive us Lord.

In your sustaining grace: forgive us Lord

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

With joy we praise God, whose gift of grace brings the joy of forgiveness. In giving signs of peace to each other, we express the reconciliation, unity, and love that are in Christ. The peace is a sign of the blessing and presence of God, a sharing of the peace that comes only from God. It is a good demonstration that as God's people we are seeking to abide in the peace of God. It expresses an openness to the power of God's love, to heal our brokenness, and make us agents of that love in this world. As Christ has forgiven us, let us now forgive one another. **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANTHEM God Be Merciful

Text taken from Psalm 67, Music by Paul Bouman

Jennifer Poiry and Cassandra Petrie, soloists, Vaughn Roste, piano

God be merciful and bless us
and cause his face to shine upon us,
that thy way may be known upon earth,
thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise thee, O God,
Let all the people praise thee!

Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for thou shalt judge thy people righteously
and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise thee, O God,
Let all the people praise thee!

Then shall the earth yield her increase;
and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We give thanks, O God of sacred stories, for the witness of holy scripture. Through it, you nurture our imaginations, touch our feelings, increase our awareness, and challenge our assumptions. Bless we pray, our hearing of your Word this day. Speak to each of us; speak to all of us; and grant that by the power of your Spirit, we may be hearers and doers of your word. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Seed? or Soil?

Rev. Ann L. Pitman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he has raised on the third day; and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

HYMN NO. 749 Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom, To live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain: **We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.**

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless, so hatred and violence will be no more. *refrain*

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love. *refrain*

THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

MUSICAL BENEDICTION The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter Lutkin

*Fran Page, Cassandra Petrie, Jennifer Poiry, Scott McMeen,
Marj Sapp, Sandy Shearer, Srikanth Sriramula, Vaughn Roste, soloists*

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord lift His countenance upon you;
and give you peace, the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. Amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Rigaudon

André Campra

Thank you for joining us today.

*We welcome you to join us for worship
next Sunday, July 19 for*

- ◆ *9:30am Outdoor English-speaking service
(weather permitting, bring lawn chairs if able), North Parking Lot*
- ◆ *11:00am English-speaking service for Live Stream via Facebook or website*
- ◆ *1:00pm Korean-speaking in-person service, McKay Hall*

*We invite you to mail in pledges and offerings to
First Presbyterian Church 300 W. Wayne Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802, or go online and give
at www.firstpresfortwayne.org, where you can also find updated information on our events.*

Assisting with Worship:

Rev. Ann Pitman, parish associate for pastoral care
Rev. Dr. Anne B. Epling, pastor/head of staff
Dr. Vaughn Roste, interim choral director
Kathryn A. Miller, organist