

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Email: [info@fpcmankato.org](mailto:info@fpcmankato.org) | Web: [fpcmankato.org](http://fpcmankato.org) | Facebook: [facebook.com/FPCmankato](https://facebook.com/FPCmankato)

**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**September 28, 2025**

*\*This service is being livestreamed Prelude through Postlude and is available for public viewing.*

### Meditation

*"Where salvation approaches, there danger grows as well." ~ Johannes Baptist Metz*

#### PRELUDE

Ben Marti

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Eric Garner

#### CHORAL INTROIT

*Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove*

Ben Marti and Dr. Andrew Kendall

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 85 and Mark 1:3

Pastor Eric Garner

You, Lord, showed favor to your land; you forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.

**Restore us again, God our savior; show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation.**

Surely God's salvation is near to those in awe of the Lord; truly God's glory will dwell in the land.

**Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.

**The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.**

Righteousness goes before the Lord and prepares the way for God's steps.

**Let us prepare the way for the Lord, making straight paths for our God.**

#### HYMN

*There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

GTG 408

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Eric Garner

**You Lord are a refining fire.**

**As we enter your presence, we are changed.**

**May our egotism melt from us;**

**May our injustice be burnt away.**

**Lord, fill us with a holy passion for you.**

**May our lives radiate your glory;**

**May we shine forth your love.**

**Make us effective for your work;**

**Transform us in Christ**

**And make us whole.**

**Amen.**

#### SILENT PRAYER

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Eric Garner

Jesus has acted boldly on our behalf: He has confronted sin and death so as to bring us the healing that we need.

In the name of Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

**GLORIA***Gloria*

8

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

8

The musical score for the Gloria is written for piano in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -". The second system also has a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men." There are repeat signs at the beginning and end of the piece, with the number 8 indicating the number of measures.

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

Ben Marti and Dr. Andrew Kendall

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor Eric Garner

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Lizz Kendall

**SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

9

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. — Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

The musical score for the Sung Prayer for Illumination is written for piano in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me." The second system also has a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. — Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me." There are repeat signs at the beginning and end of the piece, with the number 9 indicating the number of measures.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 3:1-20

Karen Anderson

**1** In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, **2** during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. **3** He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, **4** as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. **5** Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, **6** and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

**7** John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? **8** Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. **9** Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

**10** And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" **11** In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." **12** Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" **13** He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." **14** Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

**15** As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, **16** John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **17** His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

**18** So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people. **19** But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, **20** added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Riverside Chats with John*

Pastor Eric Garner

**HYMN**

*Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*

GTG 163

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor Eric Garner

**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.**



## CALL FOR OFFERING AND DOXOLOGY

9

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God all crea-tures here be low; praise

God, a-bove ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor Eric Garner

## POSTLUDE

Ben Marti

*Thank you, Karen Anderson, for sponsoring this Sunday's worship flowers!*



*If you are interested in sponsoring the Sunday worship flowers, please sign up on the FPC website, or call the church office and we'd be glad to help get you signed up!*

## CALENDAR

**Sunday, September 28:** 11:00 a.m.  
Coffee Hour  
FPC Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, September 28:** 1:30 p.m.  
Welsh Hymn Festival  
FPC

### **Eric Garner, Pastor and Head of Staff**

#### **FPC Session ~ Elders**

Jim Connors, President | Brad Leiding, Treasurer | Joyce Prahm, Clerk of Session | April Austin, Worship  
Theo Black, Budget | Sophie Hoiseth, Stewardship and Faith Formation | Lynn Kuechle, Community Engagement  
Kelly McBride, Properties | Paul Peterson, Personnel

#### **FPC Board of Deacons**

Mark Taylor, Moderator | Derek Fette, Treasurer | Chris Renne, Secretary | Karen Anderson | Nancy Black | Amily Crowell  
Deb Kienholz | Mari Lopez | Annette McGinness | Mary Jane Petersen | Marcia Richards | Jeanne Steiner

#### **FPC Staff**

Ben Marti, Organist | Andrew Kendall, DMA, Choir Director | Lizz Kendall, Director of Outreach and Faith Formation  
Mark Zallek, Building Manager | Lori Olson, Administrative Assistant | Katelyn Prahm, Custodial Assistant