

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 13, 2024**

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

*Meditation*

*"The blessings of God are like the sun; they shine on everyone, regardless of belief."  
~Gene Robinson*

<b>PRELUDE</b>	<i>An Irish Blessing ~ James Moore</i>	Ben Marti
<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		Pastor Eric Garner
<b>CHORAL INTROIT</b>		Ben Marti and Dr. Andrew Kendall
<b>CALL TO WORSHIP</b>	Psalm 134:1-3; 103:1-6	Pastor Eric Garner

Bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord who minister by night in the house of the Lord.  
**Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion, the maker of heaven and earth.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise God's holy name.  
**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits.**  
God satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
**The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.**

<b>HYMN</b>	<i>Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts</i>	GTG 494
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<b>PRAYER OF CONFESSION</b>		Pastor Eric Garner
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**Gracious Lord,  
Forgive for those times we have chosen death over life for ourselves;  
For those times we have chosen death over life for others;  
For those times we have chosen not to receive your blessings;  
For those times we have prevented others from receiving your blessings;  
For each time we have made the easy choice of condemnation over the hard choice of love.  
Transform us into your blessings for our world.  
O God of mercy, hear our prayers.  
Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYER**

<b>ASSURANCE OF PARDON</b>		Pastor Eric Garner
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The good news is that Christ calls us to new life. In Christ we are freed to begin again and again, and to live in joy. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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

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.

## CHORAL ANTHEM

Ben Marti and Dr. Andrew Kendall

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Eric Garner

## CHILDREN'S TIME

Lizz Kendall

## SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GTG 288

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.

## SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 29:4-14

**4** Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: **5** Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. **6** Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. **7** But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. **8** For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to your dreams that you dream, **9** for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord.

**10** For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. **11** For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. **12** Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. **13** When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, **14** I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

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

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Romans 12:14-21

Pastor Eric Garner

**14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. **16** Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. **17** Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. **18** If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. **19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." **20** Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Being A Blessing*

Pastor Eric Garner

**HYMN**

*O For a World*

GTG 372

**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**

GTG 607

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise  
Ho-ly Spir-it ev-er-more; praise Tri-une God, whom we a-dore. A-men.

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Pastor Eric Garner

**POSTLUDE**

*Blessed Jesus, at Your Word*

Ben Marti, GTG 395



*Thank you Mary Topp, for sponsoring this Sunday's worship flowers to say, "Thank you to the FPC Deacons for their concern and help!"*

*If you are interested 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, October 13: 10:20 a.m.  
Kidz Club  
FPC Kids Room
- Sunday, October 13: 11:30 a.m.  
Families Connect Baking and Painting!  
FPC Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, October 13: 11:30 a.m.  
WiredWord Adult Sunday School  
FPC Library
- Wednesday, October 16: 9:30 a.m.  
PW Circle Meeting  
FPC Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, October 16: 5:00 p.m.  
Worship Committee Meeting  
FPC Library
- Wednesday, October 16: 6:00 p.m.  
Session Meeting  
FPC Multipurpose Room

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

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

Jim Connors, President | Brad Leiding, Treasurer | Joyce Prahm, Clerk of Session  
April Austin, Worship | Nora Henry, Faith Formation | Sophie Hoiseth, Stewardship  
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 | Kathy Gordon | Deb Kienholz | Diane Murray  
Marcia Richards | Jeanne Steiner | Susan Schoon

#### **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 | Noa Malone, Intern for Faith Formation