

# 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)

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

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

## Meditation

*"You cannot learn meditation from a book. You have to meditate." ~Thomas Merton*

PRELUDE

Ben Marti

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Eric Garner

CHORAL INTROIT

Ben Marti and Dr. Andrew Kendall

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 16:1, 5-8, 11

Pastor Eric Garner

Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge.

**Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.**

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.

**I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.**

I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With God at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

**You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

HYMN

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

GTG 65

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Eric Garner

Gracious Lord,

Like the wind, we cannot see you

But can witness your movement in the world.

Yet we often fail to recognize your work.

We are not swept up into your love.

We do not follow you in serving our neighbors,

In lifting up those who've fallen,

Or in healing those who cry out for wholeness.

Transform us, O God.

Make your love visible in us.

May we follow after you in being passionate for justice and mercy.

May we bring your light into the darkness.

Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Eric Garner

Jesus Christ has made our God's love visible to us! Having received the Holy Spirit, may you have confidence that this love will never end! You are the beloved of God!

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

**GLORIA**

*Gloria*

GTG 581

Musical score for Gloria, GTG 581. The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system covers the first two lines of the 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 covers the next two lines: "gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men." The score includes treble and bass clefs, a key signature of two flats, and a common time signature of 4/4. There are some performance markings like '8' and '8' at the end of the piece.

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

Ben Marti and Dr. Andrew Kendall

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor Eric Garner

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Garry Fay

**SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

GTG 288

Musical score for Sung Prayer for Illumination, GTG 288. The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system covers the first two lines of the 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 covers the next two lines: "Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. — Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me." The score includes treble and bass clefs, a key signature of two flats, and a common time signature of 4/4. There are some performance markings like '9' and '8'.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 34:1-14

Julia Fette

**1** I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. **2** My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. **3** O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. **4** I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. **5** Look to him, and be radiant, so your faces shall never be ashamed. **6** This poor soul cried and was heard by the Lord and was saved from every trouble. **7** The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them. **8** O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him. **9** O fear the Lord, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want. **10** The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. **11** Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. **12** Which of you desires life and covets many days to enjoy good? **13** Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. **14** Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

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

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 11:25-30

Pastor Eric Garner

**25** At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; **26** yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. **27** All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

**28** "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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

**SERMON**

*Field Research into the Divine*

Pastor Eric Garner

**HYMN**

*O God, in a Mysterious Way*

GTG 30

**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 bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple here be - low; 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**

Ben Marti



*Thank you, Marcia Richards, for sponsoring this Sunday's worship flowers in memory of your mother, Mildred Page Jones and your sister, Kay Rhys Jacobson!*

*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, February 23: After Worship Service  
**Families Connect!**  
Baptism lesson with Pastor Eric ~ birthday cake and celebration!  
FPC Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, February 23: 11:30 a.m.  
WiredWord Adult Sunday School  
FPC Library

#### COMING IN MARCH

- Sunday, March 2: 10:00 a.m.  
Worship Service and Communion  
FPC Sanctuary
- Sunday, March 2: During Coffee Hour  
2-Cents-A-Meal  
Fair Trade Sunday  
FPC Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, March 5: 6:00 p.m.  
Ash Wednesday Service ~ Soup and Supper following Service  
FPC Fellowship Hall

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

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

Jim Connors, President | Brad Leiding, Treasurer | Joyce Prahm, Clerk of Session  
April Austin, Worship | 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 | Noa Malone, Intern for Faith Formation  
Katelyn Prahm, Custodial Assistant