

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 15, 2024

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Meditation before Worship

Silence my loud, tumultuous thoughts, and grant my brain rest. Help me let go of my distractions, and my desire to be distracted, to simply sit here with you. As the silence settles my spirit, let the waves of your peace and presence wash over me. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

“Lamb of God”

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Martha Geib Scholarship Fundraiser

Stephanie Huddleston

Introit “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast.
But sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.

***Call to Worship** (*Psalm 19*)

Leader: Come into this sacred space to worship God

People: whose teaching is perfect; whose directions are sure.

Leader: Come into this holy place to worship God

**People: whose standards are right; whose commandment is clear;
whose judgements are true.**

Leader: Come with holy fear – to be given life, and made wise, to have your heart stirred and your eyes opened wide. Come — let us worship God.

People: Let the words of our mouths and the whispering of our hearts be according to your will, O God. Amen.

***Hymn**

“Seek Ye First”

#175

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

Lord, it is easy for us to say that we will follow you; and then turn our backs and act as though our commitment to you does not mean anything to us. Jesus challenges us to take up our crosses, and when we don't understand what that means, we just shrug and turn away. Forgive us for our lack of commitment and faith. Heal us of our distractions and fears. Give us courage to be disciples and enable us to joyfully proclaim your gospel of Grace and your true fruit of Christ, love. In Jesus' name we pray, amen. (*Silent prayer of confession*)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn**

“Gloria Patri”

#581

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading

James 3:1-12

Choir Anthem “Stand Up and Bless the Lord”

Stand up and bless the Lord, you people of God's choice;

Stand up and bless the Lord your God with heart and soul and voice.

Though high above all praise, above all blessing high,

Who would not fear God's holy name and laud and magnify?

O for the living flame from God's own altar brought,

To touch our lips, our minds inspire, and wing to heaven our thought.

God is our strength and song, now is salvation ours;
Then be God's love in Christ proclaimed with all our ransomed powers.
Stand up and bless the Lord; the Lord your God adore;
Stand up and bless God's glorious name, henceforth forevermore.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 8:27-38

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Power of the Tongue”

Pastor Steve Watters

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I 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.

I 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.

***Hymn**

“I Danced in the Morning”

#157

Prayers of the People 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.

Invitation to Offering

***Response**

“Give Thanks”

#647

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sending of God's People

***Closing Hymn** "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"

#718

***Charge and Blessing**

***Congregational Response** "We Are the Church"



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***Postlude**

"Lift High the Cross"

arr. Gordon Young

Pastors: Steven A. Watters
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Kelly Armfelt

Kelly Armfelt is a member of the Generation to Generation Commission, Chancel Choir and Sunday School teacher at FPC. She loves teaching and learning alongside her kindergarten crew at Bailey Elementary in the Dublin City School District. Kelly also volunteers each week at H.E.L.P. House Community Outreach and the London Public Library. Her favorite pastimes include being Mimi to Cooper (5) and Mila (4), harassing the tenors and basses in the back row of the choir loft, bicycling and getting lost, and making Tom Lloyd laugh!