

First Presbyterian Church

Organized May 25, 1822

*With Christ as our Savior and Guide
We seek to know God's love and share it
With each other, our community, and the world.
We invite you to join us in this journey
of discipleship.*

Rev. Dr. Gregory L. Glover, Pastor

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Celebrating the Gifts of New Immigrants September 30, 2018 GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE "Andante in E"
Felix Mendelssohn

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE AND GREETING

The LORD be with you.
And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (by the Rev. Leslie Penrose, UCC)

We come, God of the Journey, a people from different places,
different histories, different lifestyles.

**We come hoping to find companionship for the journey,
solidarity for the struggle.**

We gather, God of Hospitality, around your "welcome table, a
table not yet round, but rounding,"

**We gather seeking to become a "round-table people,"
welcoming of all, with no preferred seating, no firsts and
no lasts,and no corners for "the least of these."**

We yearn, God of the Rainbow, for a new way of living and
relating... as neighbors not strangers, as brothers and sisters not
"them and us."

**We yearn to live fully, celebrating both the diversity of our
human family and the unity of our call to love and justice.**

We hunger, God of Abundant Life, for lives that have meaning
and integrity, and for relationships grounded in mutuality and
respect.

**We thirst for places to bring our doubts, our fears; places
to express honestly who we are. We thirst for hope and
encouragement as we struggle to follow Jesus in the
way of life-risking love.**

With the gift of your grace we are nourished.

**With the promise of your presence may we be
strengthened to be faithful.**

Let us worship God.

*HYMN #39 "Great Is Their Faithfulness"

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (adapted from Justice for
Immigrants, "Prayer and Liturgy Suggestions"
www.justicefroimmigrants.org)

**God of Hope, in your word you have given us the stories of
people who needed to leave their homelands—Abraham,
Sarah, Moses, and Ruth. Help us to remember that when
we speak of immigrants and refugees, we speak of
Christ. In the One who had no place to lay his head, and in
the least of his brothers and sisters, you come to us again,
a stranger seeking refuge. We confess that we often turn
away. Jesus, our brother, traveled outside his home country
and fled across borders to escape enemies. Jesus
modeled how we are called to relate to people from
different nations and cultures. We ask you to open our
minds and hearts to the challenge and invitation of
Christ's perfect example of love.**

Now hear our silent, personal prayers of confession...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In Christ, we are one body, redeemed and healed for the
purpose of repairing God's creation. Hear the Good News!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI, Hymn #581

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 1Peter 3:8-22 (p.985)

ANTHEM "The Lord Is My Shepherd"
Howard Goodall

CHILDREN'S MOMENT
***Children ages 4-4th grade leave for Children's Worship*

INTERLUDE

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Romans 12:10-18 (p. 922)

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Hopeful Community"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #734 "Hope of the World"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Immigrants Creed
(by Jose Luis Casal)*

**I believe in Almighty God, who guided the people in exile
and in exodus, the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in
Babylon, the God of foreigners and immigrants.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean, who was
born away from his people and his home, who fled his
country with his parents when his life was in danger.
When he returned to his own country he suffered under
the oppression of Pontius Pilate, the servant of a foreign
power. Jesus was persecuted, beaten, tortured, and
unjustly condemned to death. But on the third day Jesus
rose from the dead, not as a scorned foreigner but to offer
us citizenship in God's kingdom.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the eternal immigrant from
God's kingdom among us, who speaks all languages, lives
in all countries, and reunites all races.**

**I believe that the Church is the secure home for foreigners
and for all believers. I believe that the communion of
saints begins when we embrace all God's people in all**

their diversity. I believe in forgiveness, which makes us all equal before God, and in reconciliation, which heals our brokenness. I believe that in the Resurrection God will unite us as one people in which all are distinct, and all are alike at the same time. I believe in life eternal, in which no one will be foreigner, but all will be citizens of the kingdom where God reigns forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer for Migrants and Refugees: Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice, <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw/prayer.shtml>

Lord Jesus, when you multiplied the loaves and fishes, you provided more than food for the body, you offered us the gift of yourself, the gift which satisfies every hunger and quenches every thirst! Your disciples were filled with fear and doubt, but you poured out your love and compassion on the migrant crowd, welcoming them as brothers and sisters.

Lord Jesus, today you call us to welcome the members of God's family who come to our land to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Like your disciples, we too are filled with fear and doubt and even suspicion. We build barriers in our hearts and in our minds.

Lord Jesus, help us by your grace,

To banish fear from our hearts, that we may embrace each of your children as our own brother and sister;

To welcome migrants and refugees with joy and generosity, while responding to their many needs;

To realize that you call all people to your holy mountain to learn the ways of peace and justice;

To share of our abundance as you spread a banquet before us;

To give witness to your love for all people, as we celebrate the many gifts they bring.

[Prayer for Family and Friends...]

...We praise you and give you thanks for the family you have called together from so many people. We see in this human family a reflection of the divine unity of the one Most Holy Trinity in whom we make our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(You may give online at http://www.fpcclarksville.org/give_online)

THE OFFERTORY

“Minuet in G”
Luigi Boccherini
Aiden Goodwin, violin

*THE DOXOLOGY, Hymn #606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN #772

“Live into Hope”

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“Maestoso in A”
Felix Mendelssohn

WORSHIP NOTES

Maggie Brown is today's liturgist.

Tabitha Lee is today's audio-visual specialist.

Mark Ring is Director of Music/Organist.

Kenneth Williams, Accompanist.

***Please stand if you are able.**

****Children's Worship is in the Chapel outside of the church office.**

THIS WEEK AT FPC

Sunday, September 30

9:00am Children/Youth & Adult SS Classes

9:00-9:15am Children's Music

4-6:00pm Youth Groups

Monday, October 1

5:00pm Theology on Tap (O'Charley's on Riverside)

Tuesday, October 2

8:00am Men's Quarterly Breakfast

10:00am Morning Circle

5:00pm Yoga

MEMBER/VISITOR INFORMATION CARD

Please complete and place in offering plate.

Name: _____

Member(s) 1st Time Visitor(s) Visitor(s)

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Members indicate if this is a change in information.

I am interested in membership, baptism, or a meeting with the pastor (please circle which one(s)).

Prayer Requests: _____

Wednesday, October 3

10:00am Bible Study group meets in the Chapel

6:00pm Handbells meets in the Chapel

6:30pm Senior Highs @ Chick Fil A

7:00pm Adult Choir

Thursday, October 4

8:30am Yoga

12:00noon Staff Meeting

Friday, October 5-7 NaCoMe Fall Retreat

LOOKING AHEAD:

October 2 Men's Quarterly Breakfast

October 7 Showers of Love

October 8 Office Closed for Columbus Day

October 8-12 Fall Break

October 13 Loaves & Fishes fundraiser

October 14 Joint Service with Trinity

October 28 Congregational Meeting

November 4 All Saints' Day