

August 23, 2020
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MEDITATION

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalm 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 119: 105

The Church Gathers To...

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Mark Galbraith

Preparation for Worship

Worshippers are invited to meditate silently during the following prelude.

Prelude

How Wonderful, That the Word First Met Us in Baptism

Naji Hakim

Praise Almighty God

Call to Worship

- L: We come before the God of resident and alien, native and sojourner –
C: **As Adam and Eve fled the Garden,
As Noah drifted rudderless,
As Abraham and Sarah fled famine, followed God, and journeyed everywhere but home**
L: The God whose call knows no borders –
C: **As Israel and Joseph were reunited and reconciled as refugees in Egypt
As Moses, a refugee was saved from death
As the Hebrews fled Egypt without time even to bake bread**
L: The God of refuge, who chooses the poor –
C: **Whose Law a dozen times demands justice for native and alien alike,
Who calls us to leave the gleanings for the poor and refugee,
For whom Cities of Refuge were built to house all those fleeing persecution**
L: We come before this very God, citizens in a Kingdom that is alien to the world –
C: **Called to love strangers as God does,
To follow Jesus the refugee who fled persecution
And to offer hospitality to all; to welcome as we have been welcomed.**



1. Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, Of sight re - gained, the__
2. Live in - to hope the blind shall see With in - sight and__ with__
3. Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, The right to speak, the__
4. Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed From chains of fear__ or__



end of greed, Th'op pressed shall be the first__ to__
 clar - i - ty, Re - mov - ing shades of pride__ and__
 right to be, The right to have one's dai - ly__
 want or greed, God now pro - claims our full__ re -



see The year of God's own__ ju - bi - lee!
 fear A vi - sion of__ our__ God brought near.
 bread, To hear God's word__ and__ thus be fed.
 lease To faith and hope__ and__ joy and peace.

Children's Message

Sarah Greim

Confess to a Forgiving Creator

Call to Confession - Sing "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" one time.



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. Lord, send your Spir-it in this place.



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

Prayer of Confession -

All: O God, you are hard to pin down. We want to be able to name you and speak of you with certainty, but you are always bigger than our words and faster than our thoughts. Forgive our attempts to control you, and our desire to speak our words on your behalf. Forgive our halfhearted 'yes' and our excuses for saying 'no' to your call. Help us to truly listen to your living word, so that we may fully love as you love and humbly serve as you serve. Amen.

Following the Prayer of Confession, please sing "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" one time.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Who has the right to judge us? Only Christ. Yet Christ died for us, Christ was raised for us, Christ reigns in

power over us – Christ even prays for us!

C: **This is the love which binds us to God forever. There is nothing in this world, or beyond, which will keep us from being God's children. Thanks be to God. Amen**

Listen for God's Word

Scripture Reading

Psalm 119: 97-105

L: Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long.

C: **Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me.**

L: I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees are my meditation.

C: **I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.**

L: I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

C: **I do not turn away from your ordinances, for you have taught me.**

L: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

C: **Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.**

All: **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Purpose-Driven Church: Discipleship and Learning: Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path."

Rev. Mark Galbraith

Respond to God's Word

Hymn

What Wondrous Love is This

WONDROUS LOVE



1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what won-drous love is
2. When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing
3. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the
4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm



this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this that caused the Lord of
down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing down be - neath God's righ-teous
Lamb, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb who is the great I
free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful



bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Affirmation of Faith

- L: Jesus asks us, "Who do you say that I am?"
- C: **O Lord, we say you are the Son of God, but sometimes you just seem so plain human.**
- L: Jesus asks us, "Who do you say that I am?"
- C: **Lord Christ, we say you are the Messiah, the anointed One, but we'd expected a warrior or a king or a high priest.**
- L: Jesus asks us, "Who do you say that I am?"
- C: **We say that you are Lord; we say that you are Savior. But the words on our lips are not always in our hearts.**
- L: I ask you, who do you say Jesus is?
- C: **Our lives tell the story of who we believe Jesus to be. May we demonstrate through our worship our faith in the Living Word of God.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

The Lord's Prayer - *(Traditional) Page 16 in the hymnal.*

Offering Our Gifts and Lives to God

In the gift of money, we offer something of our work and selves to God.

To donate, please visit the church website, fpcdavenport.org, and click on "Donate Now," use the link: <https://bit.ly/2V8nEgm>, or mail your check in to the church office

Sicilienne

Gabriel Fauré

Alex Gilson, cello; Matt Bishop, piano

Presentation of Our Gifts and Lives to God

Please sing the Doxology - Hymn Tune: Old Hundredth, 592 in the hymnal.

Prayer of Dedication

L: Together, we pray...

C: **God of abundant mercy, you have fed us with the bread of redemption and set us free to share our lives with the world for Jesus' sake. Therefore we dedicate the offering we have presented, and the gifts we share, for the sake of your service. Through our lives, may we make your promises real and offer your hope to all, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Go To Serve With God's Blessing

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

Arise All Things That God Has Made

Naji Hakim

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers are Welcome for: Carlen Brinser; Nancy Buening (*mother of Rebecca Buening-Ferris*); family of Nancy Hoffman; Family of Don Hultgren; Jolene Keeney; Betty Nelson (*mother of Tim Nelson*); Phil Schwister; Florabelle Smith (*mother of Jim Smith*); Wilton Retirement Community; families and victims of abuse, addiction, violence, loss, suicide, COVID-19, and all recent natural disasters.

Special Congregational Meeting - Today, 10:30 AM

On motion, The Session has scheduled a special congregational meeting, Sunday, August 23, 2020, at 10:30 AM, immediately following the worship service. Paper ballots have been mailed to each household. Docket items are:

- Approval of Bridging Pastor Nominating Committee
- Approval of Pastor Katie's change in terms of call (job description will be sent via e-news or mailed at request)

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81957838067?pwd=ZHhRQytiaDJJQlZlejJRSFA2S1BJZz09>

Meeting ID: 819 5783 8067

Passcode: 740831

Dial-in Number: 312-626-6799

A Letter from Pastor Mark

God's beloved people at First Presbyterian Church:

I am announcing that the way has been made clear for me to accept a new call to serve as interim pastor out west closer to home. Given the needs of FPC-D that have surfaced during our time together, I am in full support of the call for a bridging pastor to assist FPC-D with next steps towards reconciliation and healing in this interim and transitional journey. This announcement thus serves as my 30 day notice, per contract agreement.

My last Sunday with you will be Sunday, September 6.

It has been my pleasure to partner with you as Interim Pastor, Head of Staff, and Moderator of the Session.

I am pleased with all we've accomplished in our time together. The "Divine Drama overview of the Bible and Christian teaching" class was highly successful, with faithful attendance. The Personnel Committee defined and sharpened its identity and tasks, as well as established a staff review process. The mission study groups were well attended, highly positive, and broadly-stated mission goals for the next chapter of ministry were articulated and presented.

I was very happy to see that much needed beachheads in reestablishing a positive relationship between the congregation and Presbytery have begun. The groundwork for a much-needed reconciliation process was laid. We negotiated through staff re-organization and staff stability was re-established.

You have been through a very difficult and challenging time, but already you are on the road towards reconciliation and healing. I'm confident that as the Presbytery Of East Iowa, your bridging pastor, the Session, the staff, and of course, you the great and holy people of FPC-D, join hands together, you will be successful into preparing yourselves to be in the best position of strength and health to interview for your next called and installed lead pastor and head of staff.

I wish to thank first of all the staff for their collegiality, support, and teamwork. Thanks also of course to the Session leadership and deacons, and the congregation for your love, care support, and prayers.

The Presbytery and I have already been in conversation about additional short term pastoral help until you have called and installed your bridging pastor. The Presbytery will continue to work aggressively with your session to help fill the short term need.

Please know that you'll continue to be in my prayers. Please keep me in yours as well.

The grace of our Lord Jesus the Christ, the love of God, and the communion of God's Ever-Active Presence be with you all.

Respectfully and with Thanksgiving, Mark Galbraith
Interim Pastor, Head of Staff and Moderator of the Session

Pastoral Statement

Dear Partners in Ministry at First Presbyterian Church:

For your convenience and review, here is a statement from Dr. Rebecca Blair, Stated Clerk of the PEI, following up from the Congregational Meeting July 26:

What is a Bridging Pastor?

The bridging pastor process allows carefully selected pastors and churches to be matched through the partnership of the Ministers and Congregations Commission and a special search committee working on behalf of the church. The Bridging Pastor is an experienced pastor with a particular skill set, contracted in a Temporary Pastoral Relationship, who serves in complex or conflicted transitional ministry settings. This pastor's role is to serve as a bridge following the early phase of the interim process in which conflicts and church cultural features are identified and engaged by an interim pastor and the church session, and working through the later phase of the interim process that focuses on systemic renewal and relational reconciliation. The aim of this service is to complete the preparation process for the congregation to call an installed pastor.

In accord with the PEIA policy on Temporary Pastoral Relationships, the Bridging Pastor relationship shall be established by contract between the session of the church to be served and the pastor, as full-time pastoral service, reviewed on a yearly basis by the session in partnership with the MCC with the contract to be approved by the MCC before the contract becomes effective.

What is the Process to Call a Bridging Pastor?

The process for selecting a Bridging Pastor begins with the selection of a Bridging Pastor Search Committee for the specific task of selecting a Bridging Pastor only. The Presbytery's Ministers and Congregations Commission provides guidance to the Bridging Pastor Search Committee concerning the essential skill set of the Bridging Pastor articulated in the documentation to be shared with potential candidates. The MCC and the Bridging Pastor Search Committee partner to carefully consider 2-3 candidates whom the MCC has identified. Only these candidates may be considered.

In choosing to use the Bridging Pastor option, the session is agreeing to select one of the candidates offered by the Presbytery's MCC. Once established, this relationship will be reviewed by the MCC for renewal annually to ensure that the agreed-upon activities are taking place, the ministry is benefitting the church, and the terms of contract are agreed upon.

Temporary Pastoral Relationships are defined by G-2.0504b and c in the Book of Order. These relationships shall be established by contract between the session of the church to be served and the pastor for one-year increments and shall be approved by MCC on behalf of the Presbytery before such contracts become effective. Any extension of such contract may be entered into by the session and the pastor and shall be approved by MCC before becoming effective. Such approval shall not be granted by MCC until after an acceptable review of the ministry is conducted.

*In Partnership,
Pastor Mark*

View the Special Congregational Meeting, "The Way Forward"

The recording of the July 26 congregational meeting, as well as more information about the pastor we are hoping to call, can be found on our church website: click <https://www.fpcdavenport.org/sermon-videos/> and check out the "Moving Forward" section. Recordings of future meetings will be posted here as well.

Sunday Sermon Series:

During Sunday worship, August 23, 30 and Sept. 6, Pastor Mark will present a sermon series "The 5 Purposes of the Church." Based on Dr. Rick Warren's *The Purpose-Driven Church*, the 5 purposes of the Church, i.e., **worship, evangelism, learning, fellowship and service** will be explored. This teaching sermon series is a follow-up and expansion of the Mission Study PowerPoint presentation.

Mission Study PowerPoint presentation available online

On Sunday, August 9, during the ACE Education hour, Pastor Mark presented a PowerPoint highlight reel of the Mission Study Small Groups. A video recording of the presentation is available for review or first-time viewing on FPC website and Facebook page. Please note, that due to technical glitches that occurred during the presentation, some of the introductory slides were not seen. Pastor Mark re-recorded the intro segment, and it was edited on the rest of what was presented. Any further questions or discussion may be directed to Pastor Mark!

Drive-In Communion and Evening Prayer - Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

It's been far too long without sharing communion, so please join us for a drive-in communion service Wednesdays at 7:00 PM! To make this prayer service as safe as possible, it'll be very different from our Sunday morning services. The service will only last about 15 minutes, so that attendees can comfortably keep their car windows up (you are encouraged to turn off your car engine). The service will be broadcast over FM radio. There will be no printed bulletins - instead, the order of worship will be sent out via the e-news each week. Each household will bring their own bread and juice, so that we can't spread disease via communion elements. There will also be a box for depositing offerings on the way out of the parking lot. We'd love to see you at the service, this Wednesday or any Wednesday after!

Highlights from the August Session Meeting

- Approved plans for a drive-in style weekly communion service in our parking lot.
- Our Sunday services in July averaged 130 watches each week.
- Amended our re-opening policy to provide guidance for church-sanctioned activities off campus.
- Expenses exceeded income for the 5th consecutive month. Please keep up on your pledges and non-pledge donations.
- Approved expenditures from the Capital Maintenance Endowment Fund to repair the elevator motor in the CE building.
- Reviewed items related to the transition from Pastor Galbraith to the Bridging Pastor. Rev. Pat Halverson has agreed to serve in worship and pastoral care. Rev. Pam Saturnia, First Presbyterian Church, Muscatine, will provide leadership to the staff and Session.
- Received information from the Presbytery of East Iowa regarding disaster relief efforts related to the recent wind storm. Volunteer and donation information can be found at <https://peia.org/disaster-assistance-information/>
- Approved and forwarded to the congregation a slate of candidates for the Bridging Pastor Nominating Committee.
- Approved and forwarded to the congregation changes in the call of Pastor Katie Styrt to assume duties as the Associate Pastor of Christian Education.

Join Us for These Weekly Events Online!

For more information, see the e-news, church website or Facebook:

Worship Watch Party - Sundays, 9:30 AM

Virtual Coffee Hour - Sundays, immediately following Worship Watch Party

Stump the Organist! – Every other Friday, 12:00 PM

Join the fun on Friday, August 28!

Adult Christian Education ACE Series in August: 21-Day Racial Justice Challenge

Sundays, August 23, 30, 10:45 AM

Join us on Sunday, August 23, at 10:45 AM for our discussion of the Week 2 lessons in the 21-day Racial Justice Challenge. Even if you aren't able to join our discussion, you can still download the lessons and do the 21-day challenge on your own at any time.

Here is the link for the Zoom call

<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJUkf-ivrzMqHdSy9GSdaXqVT0NeUC6eLM-9>.

You can also join the call by entering the Meeting ID (919 8171 8070) and password (ACE).

Class materials will be available in the E-news.

Online Harpsichord Recital - Tuesday, September 1, 12:00 PM

Matt Bishop will offer a free online harpsichord recital on Facebook on Tuesday, September 1 at noon. This will be a 30-minute recital featuring works by Bernardo Storace and George Frederic Handel on the church's Lindholm harpsichord. The video will be available on the church's Facebook page. Enjoy some Baroque music with your lunch!

Bible Basics 201: Romans – *Tuesdays, 6:15 PM – please note new day*

Paul's letter to the Romans is an in-depth example of the early church's struggles with religious tradition and civil authority. As always, anyone is welcome to join us! *We'll meet on Tuesdays from 6:15-7:15 PM on Zoom:*

<https://zoom.us/j/98965381440?pwd=TUdyMXltRTMrRXdFWnBEZ0NEKzBYUT09>.

If you'd like to call in, you can call 312-626-6799 and enter 989 6538 1440 for the ID and 240979 for the password.

Tuesday, August 25: Romans 9-12

Tuesday, September 1: Romans 13-16

Attention Gardeners, or Those Who Want to Get Outside and Play in the Dirt!

The neighborhood garden is planted and needs weekly maintenance (weather providing). The Deacons are asking anyone to adopt a week – you can pick whenever in that week to weed or water if needed.

Weekly availability: 8/23 – 8/29, 8/30 – 9/5

Please contact Debbie Keenan (815-621-8009; dkeen0912@gmail.com) to get on the schedule! Thank you for your part in watching our garden grow to feed our community!

Christian Education for Youth (CEFY) Fall 2020

Teachers Needed

We are in need of adults to teach Sunday school, which begins on September 13. Teachers are scheduled at your convenience; every Sunday, twice a month, even once a month. We can use you! Don't care to teach regularly but still want to help? Subs are needed as well. We will start the year with online classes and move to in-person when we can. If interested, please contact Paula Hartmann (ppelhartmann@aol.com.) You can also call the church office.

Sunday School Begins September 13!

Attention parents! Sunday School begins September 13! We will start online but hold in-person activities as allowed. We are currently ironing out a schedule to include the choirs. A registration form will be emailed to parents. Paper copies of the registration will be available in the church office. Please register your child so we know who to invite to the online meetings. Please check the Facebook page and weekly e-News for updates. Please contact Rev. Styrt or the church office if you have questions.

