

August 9, 2020
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MEDITATION

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-23

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“Peter answered him, ‘Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.’”

Matthew 14:28

The Church Gathers To...

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Katie Styr

Preparation for Worship

Worshippers are invited to meditate silently during the following prelude.

Prelude

O Thou, Image of Christ

Naji Hakim

Praise Almighty God

Call to Worship

“Be Still” video

The Work of the People



1. God of tem - pest, God of whirl - wind, as on Pen - te -
 2. God of bla - zing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your
 3. God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from
 4. God of pass - ion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's



cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered comfort; past these walls your
 pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ's li - ving Bo - dy, let your fla - ming
 le - thar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der, for earth's heal - ing
 rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in anguish, may we share your



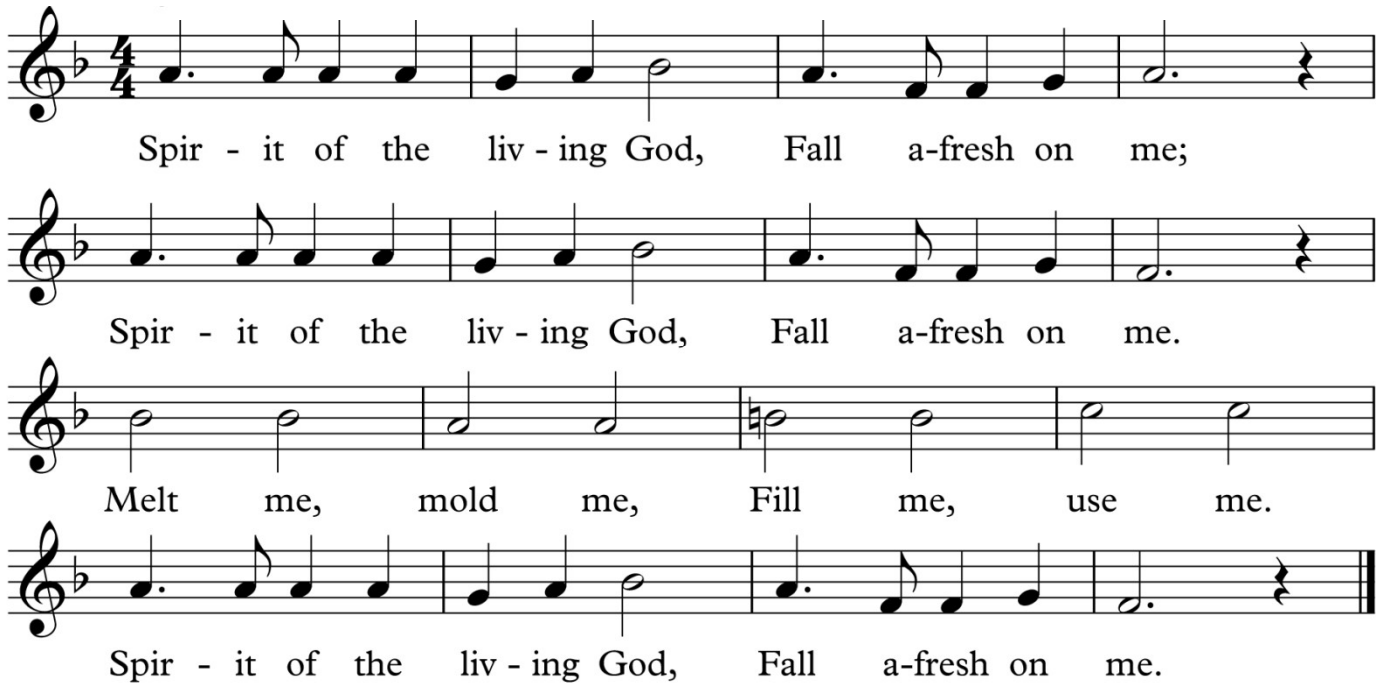
peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice, there with Christ to bear the
 Spi - rit surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - just - ice, kin - dle us to speak your
 set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us; make us one in Christ our
 heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil; claim us for your king - dom's



cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!
 truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!
 Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!
 work, claim us for your king - dom's work!

Confess to a Forgiving Creator

Call to Confession - Sing *"Spirit of the Living God"* one time.



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.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, too often we choose to idolize power instead of serving others in humility. We speak platitudes and ineffective words to those in need, instead of taking action. We work constantly to care for ourselves, but ask you to do the work of caring for others. God, forgive us. Remind us that we are your servants, and give us strong faith in your truth. Amen.

Following the Prayer of Confession, please sing "Spirit of the Living God" one time.

Assurance of Pardon

Christ's love binds us to God forever. There is nothing in this world, or beyond, which will keep us from being God's children. Our sins are forgiven; thanks be to God!

Listen for God's Word

Scripture Readings

Psalm 46
Matthew 14:22-23

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

Sermon

Trusting and Trying

Rev. Katie Styr

Respond to God's Word

Hymn

Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE

1. Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks - giv - ing To
2. By law God en - forc - es. The stars in their cours - es, The
God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise; Who
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine; The
fash - ioned and made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us, By
hills and the moun - tains; The riv - ers and foun - tains, The
guid - ing us on to the end of our days. God's
depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine. We,
ban - ners are o'er us, Pure light goes be - fore us, A
too, should be voic - ing Our love and re - joic - ing With
pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night: Till
glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise; Till
shad - ows have van - ished, All fear - ful - ness - ban - ished, As
all things now liv - ing U - nite in thanks - giv - ing, To
for - ward we trav - el from light in - to Light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise.

Affirmation of Faith

Selected from the Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives. Amen.

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

Gavotte from *Cello Suite No. 5*

J. S.

Bach

Presentation of Our Gifts and Lives to God

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

Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, we offer our gifts to you not because you need them, but so others might be as blessed as we are by your presence, your power, and your peace. May these gifts be used to care for your people. Amen.

Go To Serve With God's Blessing

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

Commit Thy Way Unto God

Naji Hakim

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers are Welcome for: Mary Katherine and family of Ben (*friends of Don Wood*); Carlen Brinser; Nancy Buening (*mother of Rebecca Buening-Ferris*); Colleen Dueñas (*death of mother*); Nancy Hagen (*mother of Colleen Dueñas*); family of Nancy Hoffman; Jolene Keeney; Betty Nelson (*mother of Tim Nelson*); Don Pedersen and family (*death of wife and mother, Marsha*); Phil Schwister; Wilton Retirement Community; Audrae Zoeckler (*90th birthday*); families and victims of abuse, addiction, violence, loss, suicide, COVID-19, and all recent natural disasters.

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.

A Note from the Pandemic Task Force

Last month, the church sent to every household in our congregation the Reopening Plan drafted by the Pandemic Task Force and approved by the Session. In line with our duties as outlined by the Session, the task force has continued to meet weekly and reevaluate our policy in light of the ever-changing situation of the COVID pandemic in our community. Around the same time as that plan was sent, cases in the Quad Cities area began surging; this surge prompted the task force to reconsider our stated conditions for entering Stage 2 (“Consistently <1 death per day for 3 consecutive weeks”).

We realized that the formula for determining various stages works well when numbers do what they are supposed to: gradually decrease. But basing a reopening on the death count alone fails to take into account a resurgence. Under the current formula, it is possible to open the church for worship in the middle of a surge because we technically would not see the resulting deaths from that surge for a few weeks after; considering that the surge began with a younger population, it is likely that the deaths would not occur for several weeks after we reopen, which would prompt us to close again. The task force believes that it would appear reckless to reopen when numbers are rising and ICU beds are scarce. To account for this surge in numbers, the task force proposed to Session last week that the policy be amended such that the conditions for entering Stage 2 would read, “Consistently <5 cases and <1 death per day for 3 consecutive weeks.” This measure was approved by the Session. The idea is that we reopen in Stage 2 when deaths cease (which is a good marker for gauging the situation with ICU bed availability) and numbers drop significantly; if this is maintained for three weeks, we can move comfortably into Stage 3.

All the members of the Pandemic Task Force are eager to worship again in our beautiful sanctuary. Please know that our priority since forming in April has been to keep our congregation safe. This has been and continues to be our guiding value, and we thank you for your ongoing support of the many great ministries of FPC during this time.

Highlights from the July Session Meeting

- With Session approval, FPC is now a member of QC Interfaith and has representatives attending meetings.
- The Re-opening Policy was amended to account for the current situation in Scott County where Covid-related deaths are low but case numbers are increasing significantly. Case numbers will now be part of the criteria for entering Stage 2.
- Giving to the general fund is down considerably since the pandemic started. Please, everyone is encouraged to keep up your giving.
- The Session received a report from Dr. Rebecca Blair, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of East Iowa on the Administrative Review Committee of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and on the status of the Bridging Pastor. Details were presented at the congregational meeting on July 26, 2020.
- A specially-called congregational meeting was approved for August 23, 2020. The purpose will be to elect a Bridging Pastor search committee and approve changes in the call of Pastor Katie Styr.
- Approved the PAS Program for 2020-2021 which is scheduled to begin in March 2021. Details to follow.
- Received a report from the Tech Task Force that new video equipment is needed to replace some failed parts. Work is being done to allow for live streaming.
- The Worship Task Force ended their service after 2 years. A final report was given to Session.

Presentation from Pastor Mark – Today, 10:20 AM

During virtual coffee hour today, Pastor Mark will be sharing a presentation on our church’s mission goals. Last winter, small groups of members met to discuss their favorite parts of our church, their hopes for our future, and concerns about the past. Pastor Mark has combined the results from these meetings and will share them with us after worship on August 9. Join us after worship (around 10:20 AM) at this link:

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

You can also call 312-626-6799 and enter the Meeting ID (919 8171 8070) and password (ACE). Hope you can join us!

Special Congregational Meeting - Sunday, August 23, 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. Docket items are:

- Approval of Bridging Pastor Nominating Committee
- Approval of Pastor Katie's change in terms of call

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

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 819 5783 8067

Passcode: 740831

Dial by your location

1 312 626 6799 US

Send a Card! Audrae Zoeckler Turns 90 Today!

Audrae Zoeckler is the longest living member of FPC. Join the FPC card party from our church members wishing her Happy Birthday. Her address is **2141 Lillie Ave., Davenport, Iowa, 52804.**

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! – Fridays, 12:00 PM

Adult Christian Education in August – Sundays, August 16, 23, 30 10:45 AM

It is not too late to join the 21-Day Racial Justice Challenge. Learn about racial justice issues and learn about yourself. If you begin on Monday, August 10, you will be right on schedule. You can download handouts for the 21-day challenge by **clicking here**. The handouts will provide you links to a daily reading or a video to watch. Then join us on August 16 at 10:45 AM on Zoom for a discussion of the Week 1 daily lessons. We will meet again on Sundays August 23 and August 30 to discuss week 2 and week 3 lessons, respectively.

In 2016, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approved a church wide anti-racism policy called “Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community.” It is good background for this challenge.

Here is the link for the Zoom call:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/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, August 18, 12:00 PM

Matt Bishop will offer a free online harpsichord recital on Facebook on Tuesday, August 18 at noon. This will be a 30-minute recital featuring works by Henry Purcell and Louis-Claude Daquin 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 – Wednesdays, 6:15 PM

We'll start up again on August 12 at 6:15 PM with a study on the book of Romans. 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 from 6:15-7:15 PM on Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/96343292274?pwd=RmttNUc2aXcrSENjeTJyRFB6eER4dz09>.

If you'd like to call in, you can call 312-626-6799 and enter 963 4329 2274 for the ID and 597055 for the password.

August 12: Romans 1-4

August 26: Romans 9-12

August 19: Romans 5-8

September 2: 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:

8/9 – 8/15

8/16 – 8/22

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!