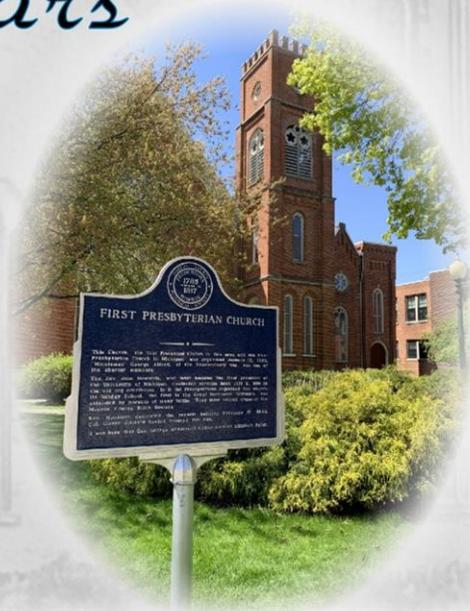




First  
Presbyterian  
Church of Monroe

1820 to 2020

Celebrating  
200 Years  
of Faith  
&  
Service



**August 30, 2020**

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The mission of the First Presbyterian Church is to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ and to proclaim his salvation in worship, education, and outreach.

# *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

## WELCOME

## OPENING WORDS

Matthew 16:24

One: Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O Lord, let our soul rise up to meet you

**All: as the day rises to meet the sun.**

One: O Lord, our Lord; God of our ancestors, God of Abraham, God of Isaac and God of Jacob, we worship you!

**All: We praise the Lord! We praise God’s holy name!**

One: Our hearts seek you Lord. In our words and in our lives, may your will be done.

**All: We look to you in hope, O Lord. Our hearts cry “Glory!”**

*One: Let us pray: O God, author and giver of all good things, plant in our hearts the love of your name; deepen our faith and nourish us with all goodness. In the midst of this changing and uncertain world, fix our hearts where true joys are found, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen*

## HYMN #10

### “Sing Glory to the Name of God”

vss. 1,3-4

- 1 Sing glory to the name of God, whose holy splendor shines abroad. Alleluia, alleluia! Enthroned above the crashing waves, the God of grace and glory saves. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 The name of God is wild and free, awhirl in holy mystery. Alleluia, alleluia! A secret wrapped in smoke and fire, still chanted by the temple choir: Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 May God forever be our peace; may hymns of glory never cease: Alleluia, alleluia! Let all the faithful people come; sing praise to God, the Three in One: Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus Christ overcame evil with good so that all people might be saved from sin. Let us confess our need for grace. Confident in God’s forgiveness.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Matthew 16:23-26

**God of mercy, we confess that, like the disciples, we set our minds not on divine things but on human things. Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need. We live out of scarcity rather than abundance. Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink from living boldly as your followers. Doubting your loving plan, we become stumbling blocks in your creation. Forgive us that we may gain new life in you, for it is in Jesus' forgiving name we pray. Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

*Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus took up his cross for our salvation. In return for our old life of sin, he promises a new life of grace. Hear the good news! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Be at peace.

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## SONG OF AFFIRMATION #406

“We Are Standing on Holy Ground”

*We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around; let us praise Jesus now; we are standing in his presence on holy ground.*

## TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, who spoke to Moses from the burning bush, speak to us now in the reading and proclaiming of your word. Amen.

## FIRST READING

Exodus 3:1-15

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

Matthew 16:21-28

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## HYMN #688

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

vss. 1,3

- 1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth; through all its pulses move; stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art, and make me love thee as I ought to love.
- 3 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King; all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind? I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling. O let me seek thee, and O let me find!

## CALL TO OFFERING

*The apostle Paul encourages us: do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. In loving service to our loving Lord, we now open our hearts to God's call to us to give back to God a portion of what God freely gives us. Please reflect on the blessings God has given you and how you may extend God's love through giving back to God.*

## DOXOLOGY

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Holy God of holy ground, like Moses, we question our fitness to serve heaven's purposes on earth. Overcome our qualms with the assurance of your presence; bless our offerings that, through them, we may do your will; in the name of the triune One. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(Hold in your heart those who are sick; those who are on ventilators; those who are suffering; those who are dying. Pray for all health care workers and essential workers, who risk their lives in service of God and neighbor. Pray for scientists and researchers in their efforts to develop a COVID-19 vaccine. Pray for our FPC Monroe beloved community—those who enter through our virtual front door and those who enter through our wooden front door. Pray for local, state, national and world leaders that they will govern justly and show empathy, compassion, and mercy. Pray for our Earth and all creation.)*

## 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## HYMN #365

“God Reigns!”

vss. 1-4

1 God reigns! Let earth rejoice! Let oceans shout God's might! Borne up by truth and righteousness, God's throne is our delight.

**Refrain**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! God reigns! Let earth rejoice!**

2 God's fire ignites the clouds with judgment swift and just; the evil find their deeds in vain; God's foes are brought to dust.

**Refrain**

3 False idols rise to claim the weakness of our pride, but cannot touch the faithful ones, for God stands at our side.

**Refrain**

4 The radiance of God's light beams joy into our days; now filled with God's own peace and love, our hearts resound with praise.

**Refrain**

## CHARGE AND BLESSING

## POSTLUDE

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The purpose of the meeting is to hear the report of the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) and call a vote on a candidate and the Terms of Call.

Call to Worship and Prayers adapted/edited. Long, Kimberly Bracken (Editor) Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion. Westminster John Knox Press. Louisville. 2014. p. 139-141

**Liturgist: Kim Hooper**

**Ushers: Liz Cunningham and Mary Ann Hooper**