



First
Presbyterian
Church of Monroe

1820 to 2020

Celebrating
200 Years
of Faith
&
Service



October 11, 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.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

OPENING WORDS

O praise the Lord with me,
Let us exalt God's name together.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise be to God, who has brought us here this day.
Praise and thanks to God for all the blessings we have received.
What joy we have in God's presence!
What peace is brought to us in God's house!
This is truly the day that the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it! AMEN.

OPENING HYMN #336

“We Gather Together”

vss. 1-3

- 1 We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.
- 2 Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine; so from the beginning the fight we were winning; thou, Lord wast at our side; all glory be thine!
- 3 We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender wilt be. Let thy congregation escape tribulation; thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

CALL TO CONFESSION

We long to be with God in the Kingdom of Heaven but, if we are honest, we too often turn our backs to God and reject the invitation to join in the great banquet he has prepared for us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, you have invited us into the Kingdom of Heaven. Forgive us for the times we have rejected that invitation. Forgive us when we reject your mercy and your love while putting our own agenda in front of yours. We find excuses to reject your grace when you offer us life eternal and life to the full. As we confess our sins this morning, Lord, both as a corporate body and individually, remind us again of your mercy and your love; for we offer this confession in Jesus' name. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God hears us and forgive us when we repent in spirit and in truth. Because of God's grace, mercy and love, know that we are indeed forgiven and have eternal life through Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross and his resurrection. **AMEN.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

SONG OF AFFIRMATION #581 "Glory Be to the Father"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, thank you for your word which is alive with the Holy Spirit. Reveal to us the life and truth found in these words so that our hearts and minds are transformed to be more like Christ's.

FIRST READING — Jeremiah 25:4-7

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING — Matthew 7:21-23

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

"Many are Called, Few are Chosen"

Matthew 22:1-14

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 #418

“Softly and Tenderly”

vss. 1-3

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me. See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Refrain

Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home. Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, “O sinner, come home!”

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me? Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me?

Refrain

3 O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me! Thou we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.

Refrain

CALL TO OFFERING

Please reflect on the blessings God has given you and how you might reach out.

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We are thankful, God, that through your mercy and grace
we have been invited into the Kingdom of Heaven.

We are thankful, God, that you have given us new life,

Through the sacrificial death and resurrection of our Lord,
Your son, Jesus Christ

We are thankful, Lord, that your mighty power is at work in us,
Transforming us to be more like Christ each day
as it renews our heart, soul and minds.

To You, God, belong thanks eternal.

In Jesus' powerful name, **AMEN.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*Pray for those who are ill and all health care workers and those in essential jobs serving us. Pray for our congregation now separated. Pray for our country's leaders as they make tough decisions. Pray for our world.*)

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 #697

“Take My Life”

vss. 1-6

- 1 Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King; take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold; take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.
- 5 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

God has invited us to the great banquet that will take place in the Kingdom of Heaven. Let us go out today, with God's face shining upon us, and invite others to join us at that table as the meal is ready. May the hope, peace and love found in the promise of eternal life through Christ surround you this day and every day. **AMEN.**

Ushers: Helyn Schroeder and Jim Crammond

About our Guest Speaker

Jason Armstrong was the Youth Pastor at First Presbyterian Maumee for ten years before becoming the Assistant Pastor there in the spring of 2019. In his time at the church, he has earned a Master's Degree in Theology from Lourdes University and has become accredited to preach in the Maumee Valley Presbytery by completing their preaching course.

Jason and his wife, Marlo, a Toledo Public Schools special education teacher, live in the Maumee, Ohio area and have three children; Bruin (23), Aubrey (19) and Ian (14).