

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

695 E. Calvin Street, Fayetteville, AR 72703 • (479) 442-4411 • www.fupcfay.org

*please stand as you are able.

June 10, 2018, 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Let All Things Now Living

Robert Hobby;
Jeannie Lee, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (*Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to others.*)

STRIKING THE BELL AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

INTROIT

To Abraham and Sarah

Glory to God #51

We of this generation on whom God's hand is laid can journey to the future secure and unafraid, rejoicing in God's goodness and trusting in this word, "That you shall be my people and I will be your God."

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 136*)

Jane Steinkraus

O give thanks to the LORD, who is good, **for God's steadfast love endures forever.**
who alone does great wonders, **for God's steadfast love endures forever;**
who brought Israel out from Egypt, **for God's steadfast love endures forever;**
with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, **for God's steadfast love endures forever;**
who divided the Red Sea in two, **for God's steadfast love endures forever;**
and made Israel pass through the midst of it, **for God's steadfast love endures forever;**
but overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, **for God's steadfast love endures forever;**
who led his people through the wilderness, **for God's steadfast love endures forever;**
It is he who remembered us in our low estate, **for God's steadfast love endures forever;**
and rescued us from our foes, **for God's steadfast love endures forever;**
O give thanks to the God of heaven, **for God's steadfast love endures forever.**

*HYMN 37

Let All Things Now Living

Glory to God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*seated, unison*)

God of everlasting love, through your Word you made all things in heaven and on earth. You have opened up for us a path from slavery and death, to life and liberty. In Jesus Christ, you have delivered us from evil and set us free. Forgive us when we continue to live as slaves of sin. Forgive us when we fail to work to free others from injustice. Hear us as we sing the hymn of resurrection as your church. Raise us to new life in Christ, and give us your blessing, that we might be a blessing to others. (*silent reflection*) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: **in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 43

You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord (verse 1)

Glory to God

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in his shadow for life, say to the Lord,
"My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you.**

Harper Werner

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S SONG 2233

Where Children Belong

Sing the Faith

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Leslie Belden

ANTHEM

Deep in the Shadows

Glory to God #50

*Deep in the shadows of the past, far out from settled lands,
some nomads traveled with their God across the desert sands.
The dawning hope of humankind by them was sensed and shown:
a promise calling them ahead, a future yet unknown.*

*While others bowed to changeless gods, they met a mystery,
invisible, without a name "I AM WHAT I WILL BE";
and by their tents, around their fires in story, song, and law,
they praised, remembered, handed on a past that promised more.*

*From Exodus to Pentecost the promise changed and grew,
while some, remembering the past, recorded what they knew,
Or with their letters and laments, their prophecy and praise,
recovered, kindled, and expressed new hope for changing days.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 12:33-51

³³ The Egyptians urged the people to hasten their departure from the land, for they said, "We shall all be dead."

³⁴ So the people took their dough before it was leavened, with their kneading bowls wrapped up in their cloaks on their shoulders. ³⁵ The Israelites had done as Moses told them; they had asked the Egyptians for jewelry of silver and gold, and for clothing, ³⁶ and the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. And so they plundered the Egyptians.

³⁷ The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. ³⁸ A mixed crowd also went up with them, and livestock in great numbers, both flocks and herds. ³⁹ They baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had brought out of Egypt; it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

⁴⁰ The time that the Israelites had lived in Egypt was four hundred thirty years. ⁴¹ At the end of four hundred thirty years, on that very day, all the companies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. ⁴² That was for the LORD a night of vigil, to bring them out of the land of Egypt. That same night is a vigil to be kept for the LORD by all the Israelites throughout their generations.

⁴³ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: This is the ordinance for the passover: no foreigner shall eat of it, ⁴⁴ but any slave who has been purchased may eat of it after he has been circumcised; ⁴⁵ no bound or hired servant may eat of it. ⁴⁶ It shall be eaten in one house; you shall not take any of the animal outside the house, and you shall not break any of its bones. ⁴⁷ The whole congregation of Israel shall celebrate it. ⁴⁸ If an alien who resides with you wants to celebrate the passover to the LORD, all his males shall be circumcised; then he may draw near to celebrate it; he shall be regarded as a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it; ⁴⁹ there shall be one law for the native and for the alien who resides among you.

⁵⁰ All the Israelites did just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron. ⁵¹ That very day the LORD brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt, company by company.

Exodus 13:17-22

¹⁷ When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer; for God thought, "If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt." ¹⁸ So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt prepared for battle. ¹⁹ And Moses took with him the bones of Joseph who had required a

solemn oath of the Israelites, saying, "God will surely take notice of you, and then you must carry my bones with you from here." ²⁰ They set out from Succoth, and camped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. ²¹ The LORD went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. ²² Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Hebrews 11:23-28

²³ By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered abuse suffered for the Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to the reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, unafraid of the king's anger; for he persevered as though he saw him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

SERMON

Seeking a Homeland

Rev. Stewart Smith

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from a Brief Statement of Faith)*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,

like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Blessed Be the God of Israel

Robert Hobby

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 2045**

Sing a New Song to the Lord (verses 1 and 2)

Sing the Faith

Sing a new song to the Lord, he to whom wonders belong!

Rejoice in his triumph and tell of his power—O sing to the Lord a new song!

Now to the ends of the earth see his salvation is shown!

And still he remembers his mercy and truth, unchanging in love to his own.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God, in your grace ... You hear our prayers.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Glory to God

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

*Bless the Lord
Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.*

Glory to God #544

POSTLUDE

God of Grace

Robert Hobby

**Called to be a light on the hill,
we boldly proclaim and serve Christ,
the Hope of our changing world.**

**Reaching out as a visible expression of God's grace,
we will meet people where they are,
inviting all into Christ's family through
engaging worship, fellowship, learning, and service.**