

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*Please stand as you are able.

April 7, 2019 - 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

(We invite you to take this time to prepare your hearts for worship.)

PRELUDE

Wondrous Love

Dale Wood
Jeannie Lee, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to others.)

Brianne Christiansen

RINGING OF THE BELL AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Cole Jackson, James Price, and Reed Fagg

INTROIT

At the River

Ives/arr. Lee

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Drew Parker

How blessed we are that God forgives us and loves us!

For all those times when we have fallen short of what God would have us be, we have been forgiven.

God makes us new in God's Spirit!

Now is the time to joyfully accept the newness of life which God offers to us.

Come, let us worship and be thankful.

Let us open our hearts to the peace and joy of God. Amen.

*HYMN

Down to the River To Pray

J.G. Stalnaker

As I went down to the river to pray studying about that good old way

And who shall wear the starry crown; Good Lord, show me the way!

O sisters let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

O sisters let's go down, down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray studying about that good old way

And who shall wear the robe and crown; Good Lord, show me the way!

O brothers let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

O brothers let's go down, down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray studying about that good old way

And who shall wear the starry crown; Good Lord, show me the way!

O sinners let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

O sinners let's go down, down to the river to pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(seated, unison)*

Britton Adair, Mason Younger

Your story is one of redemption, holiness, salvation, and new beginnings: things that we need, things that we long for. Because we mess up. We fall down.

We don't know where to turn.

So we turn to you, Holy One. We turn to you for redemption. We place before you all those things—holy and unholy—that are part of our lives. We cry out to you, "Save us! Help us to start over! Because we can't get out of our own way!"

Forgive us, God, as only you can. Help us to begin anew.

Not only that, but remind us of what it means to be your people: to love you and to love those around us—whether we want to or not—with our whole being.

That's your call to us. That's who you want us to be.

People who follow the teacher, preacher, healer, and Savior, Christ the Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Elliot Eichmann, Sydney Adair

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 62

Love the Lord your God (sing three times)

Glory to God

Love the Lord your God with all your heart.
Love the Lord your God with all your soul.
Love the Lord your God with all your mind.
Love the Lord your God with all that you are.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Sharon Taylor

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

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

ANTHEM

Come As You Are

Crowder

Come out of sadness
From wherever you've been
Come broken hearted
Let rescue begin
Come find your mercy
Oh sinner come kneel
Earth has no sorrow
That heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow
That heaven can't heal

*So lay down your burdens
Lay down your shame
All who are broken
Lift up your face
Oh wanderer come home
You're not too far
So lay down your hurt
Lay down your heart
Come as you are*

There's hope for the hopeless
And all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table
Come taste the grace
There's rest for the weary
Rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow
That heaven can't cure

Chorus

There's joy for the morning
Oh sinner be still
Earth has no sorrow
That heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow
That heaven can't heal

Chorus

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Reed Fagg

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." ²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold,

together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

SERMON

How Many Times?

Ellie Fagg

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(The Brief Statement of Faith)*

Cole Jackson

We trust in God, whom we call 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, 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

(Generosity Cards are available in the pews for offering our thanks, time, talents, and treasures.)

OFFERTORY

Sonata in A Minor

C.P.E. Bach
Haley Jackson

***RESPONSE 710**

We Lift Our Voices

Glory to God

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices; Lord use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

James Price

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Middle School Ministry

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

THE 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 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 748**

Go With Us, Lord

Glory to God

***BENEDICTION**

Connor Robbins

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

Oceans

Hillsong

*Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Savior*

*I will call upon Your name
Keep my eyes above the waves
My soul will rest in Your embrace
I am Yours and You are mine*

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

(As we leave, we are called to be God's light in the world.)

POSTLUDE

Love Lifted Me

R. Schram