



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

May 2, 2021

11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Jan Butin

OPENING PRAYER (from John 15)

Almighty God, you pour out the Spirit of grace and transformation on all who seek you. Deliver us from distractions this morning, that with steady minds and uplifted hearts we may worship you in spirit and in truth. Today and every day, may we abide in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Carol Nave, organist

Arranged by Michael Burkhardt (b. 1957)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Brianne Christiansen and Rev. Jan Butin

Hear the risen Christ: "I am the vine; you are the branches."

Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can we unless we abide in you.

"Abide in me as I abide in you."

As we abide in you and you in us, we can bear much fruit, because apart from you, we can do nothing.

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

The Father is glorified by this, that we bear much fruit and become Jesus' disciples, abiding in the Father's love and keeping his commandments.

HYMN 641

When In Our Music God is Glorified (verses 1, 3, 4)

Glory to God

Words by Fred Pratt Green; Music by Charles Villiers Stanford

When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride, It is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!

So has the church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong, Borne witness to the truth in every tongue: Alleluia!

And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night when utmost evil strove against the light? Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight: Alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Libby Lizarraga

God of truth and light, we confess that too often, we capitulate to the values, concerns, and patterns of the culture around us. Too often, we don't even notice when we or our leaders deny or contradict who Jesus was, what he taught, or the others-centered love he embodied and demonstrated for us. Open our eyes to your truth. Free us from presumption and self-deceit, that we might be painfully honest with ourselves and others. May the good news we've heard from the beginning abide in us. May we follow Jesus day by day, and stay connected to you through him, instead of following anything that opposes, resists, or denies him or what he represents. *(silent confession)* Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Words by Amy Grant; Music by Michael W. Smith

[Refrain] **Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me.
[Refrain]

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.
[Refrain]

THE PEACE

Margaret Bridges and Mary Kate Bridges

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

CHILDREN'S SONG 2233

Where Children Belong
Words and Music by James Ritchie

Sing the Faith

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

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Jacob Christiansen

ANTHEM

Abide with Me

Paige DeJarnett, alto

Words by Henry F. Lyte; Music by William H. Monk; Arranged by James P. Colman

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.
I need Thy presences every passing hour. What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's
pow'r? Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, Lord,
abide with me. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless. Ills have no weight, and tears no
bitterness. Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if Thou abide
with me. Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes. Shine through the gloom and point
me to the skies. Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee. In life, in death,
O Lord, abide with me.*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

I John 2:18-28

¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour! As you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. From this we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But by going out they made it plain that none of them belongs to us. ²⁰ But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and all of you have knowledge. ²¹ I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and you know that no lie comes from the truth. ²² Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who

denies the Son has the Father; everyone who confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is what he has promised us, eternal life. ²⁶ I write these things to you concerning those who would deceive you. ²⁷ As for you, the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and so you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, abide in him. ²⁸ And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he is revealed we may have confidence and not be put to shame before him at his coming.

SERMON

Abiding in Christ

Rev. Phil Butin

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of 1967)

Wise and virtuous people through the ages have sought the highest good in devotion to freedom, justice, peace, truth, and beauty. Yet all human virtue, when seen in the light of God's love in Jesus Christ, is found to be infected by self-interest and hostility. All of us, good and bad alike, are in the wrong before God and helpless without his forgiveness. Thus we all fall under God's judgment. No one is more subject to that judgment than the person who presumes to be guiltless before God or morally superior to others.

But God's love never changes. Against all who oppose him, God expresses this love in wrath. In the same love, God took on himself judgment and shameful death in Jesus Christ, to bring us to repentance and new life.

God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful humanity. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERTORY

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts
Arranged by Albin Whitworth (b. 1938)

Carol Nave, organist

RESPONSE 451

Open My Eyes, That I May See (verse 3)
Words and Music by Clara H. Scott

Glory to God

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CELEBRATING THE GRADUATES

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ted Belden

God in your grace, you hear our 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 494

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts (verses 1, 2, 5)
Words by Ray Palmer; Music by Henry Baker

Glory to God

Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts, thou fount of life, thou light of all,
From the best bliss that earth imparts we turn, unfilled to heed thy call.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood; thou savest those that on thee call;
To them that seek thee thou art good, to them that find thee, all in all.

O Jesus, ever with us stay; make all our moments calm and bright.
O chase the night of sin away; shed o'er the world thy holy light.

BENEDICTION
RESPONSE 546

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
Words by John Fawcett; Music: Sicilian melody

Glory to God

**Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound;
may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.**

POSTLUDE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Arranged by Michael Burkhardt

