



# FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

September 29, 2024

11:00 a.m.

## GATHERING

*(Please use this time to prepare reflectively for worship.)*

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

Bo Morton and Lindley Ramsey

**WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Stewart Smith

**PRELUDE**

*Jesus Loves Me/My Faith Looks Up to Thee*  
Music by William B. Bradbury/Lowell Mason; Setting by Wayne Oquin

Isaac Thomas, piano

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We praise You God for the changing of the seasons;

**People: That bring variety and special moments to our lives.**

Leader: Autumn has begun with cooler temperatures and shortening daylight;

**People: With golden leaves and ripe apples and football cheers;**

Leader: With pumpkin pie, cider, the smell of cold and smoke, the touch of homecoming;

**People: When between the branches of leaf-lost trees squirrels race against winter.**

Leader: We gather in the harvest of our lives, the plenty, the good, and rake up the scatterings  
– dried hopes and fallen dreams.

**People: And we offer it all with thanksgiving to our loving God who guides us through it all.**

**Unison: Let us worship the living and loving God!**

## \*HYMN #65

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*  
Words by William Williams; Music by John Hughes

Glory to God

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah. Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;  
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(seated, unison)*

Bill Mitchell

Merciful God, whose care never ceases, we come to You as we are. We are tired from trying to do more than we can manage. We are anxious about problems which go unresolved. We are worried about events beyond our control. We do not easily let go. For mistakes we cannot redeem, for tasks left undone, for uncertain goals, we need Your forgiveness and ask for Your understanding. For recovery of strength and enthusiasm, we pray for Your Spirit. For fullness of life, generous hearts, and contented souls, we pray to be followers of Christ Jesus .....

*(silent confession) .... Amen.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

\*RESPONSE #829 (verse 1)

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*  
Words by Ray Palmer; Music by Lowell Mason

Glory to God

**My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!  
Now hear me when I pray, take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day be wholly thine!**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

## CHILDREN'S SONG

*Praise Him, All Ye Little Children*  
Words: Anonymous; Music by Carey Bonner

**Praise him, praise him, all ye little children,  
God is love, God is love.  
Praise him, praise him, all ye little children,  
God is love, God is love.**

## TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Stewart Smith

## ANTHEM

*Open My Eyes*  
Words by Lancelot Andrews (1555-1626); Music by K. Lee Scott

Chancel Choir  
Xiao Yang, piano

Open my eyes and I shall see; incline my heart and I shall desire;  
order my steps and I shall walk in the ways of your commandments.  
O God, be my only Lord, and beside you let there be none else,  
no other, none else with you.  
Teach me to worship you and serve you in all my undertakings  
with truth of spirit, with honor of body,  
with blessing of mouth both in public and private.  
Open my eyes and I shall see; incline my heart and I shall desire;  
order my steps and I shall walk in the ways of your commandments. Amen.

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Stewart Smith

## SCRIPTURE READING

### Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup>Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup>"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. <sup>49</sup>"For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

## SERMON

*Salty Christians*

Rev. Stewart Smith

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** From "A Declaration of Faith" Chapter 9, Section 1 PCUS 1977

**Christ calls us to be disciples. In forming his people and sending them into the world Jesus called individuals to be disciples. They were to share the joy of his companionship, to understand and obey his teachings, and to follow him in life and death. We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship. Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ is God's undeserved gift to each of us. It is also God's demand upon every one of us, never perfectly fulfilled by any of us. Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters, we strive to become more faithful and effective in our daily practice of the Christian life. Amen.**

### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Amanda McDonald

### OFFERTORY

*Beautiful Savior (Fairest Lord Jesus)*  
Silesian Folk Tune; Setting by Wayne Oquin

Isaac Thomas, piano

### \*RESPONSE #581

*Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri)*  
Words: Traditional; Music by Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

Glory to God

**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.**

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Amanda McDonald

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Kristi Button

### 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

### LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Stewart Smith

### \*HYMN #192

*Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining (Shine, Jesus, Shine)*  
Words and Music by Graham Kendrick

Glory to God

**Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on me; shine on me.**

[Chorus] **Shine, Jesus, Shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.**

**Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.**

**Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.**

**Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.**

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance;  
by the blood I may enter your brightness. Search me; try me; consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me; shine on me. [repeat chorus]**

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your brightness;  
ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story.  
Shine on me; shine on me. [repeat chorus]**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Stewart Smith

**POSTLUDE**

*Miracle of Grace: In Christ Alone*

Isaac Thomas, piano

Music by Don Koch and Shawn Craig; Arranged by David T. Clydesdale

*(Our worship continues through the Postlude.  
If you need to leave, please do so quietly. Otherwise, please remain seated.)*

**Participants**

Greeters – Jo and Ernie Rothrock

Interim Senior Pastor – Rev. Stewart Smith

Minister of Music/Commissioned Ruling Elder – Isaac Thomas

Choral Interns - Ceci Allen, Cole Jackson, Jeffrey Kerst, Isabelle Pennick, Verna Labitad, and Will Trotter-Wright

Audio/Visual Team - Christopher Verdery, Connor Button, and Drew Parker

Director of Christian Education - Kristi Button

Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministries - Amanda McDonald

Membership Coordinator – Amy McCann

Childcare Coordinator – Lee Pendley

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