



# FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

October 27, 2024

Reformation Sunday

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

*Prelude & Almand*

Xiao Yang, organ

Music by Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: As we gather for worship, let us be reminded that we are part of a great tradition, inspired by the courage and commitment of Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox and other spiritual ancestors.

**People: Let their love for You and their devotion to Your Word inspire our worship this day as we remember and celebrate our heritage.**

Leader: Remembering their study of scripture, let us recommit ourselves as lifelong students of Your Word.

**People: Help us to be more dedicated and more purposeful as students of Your Word.**

Leader: We reaffirm their commitment to one, and only one Mediator between You and us:

**People: We are grateful that Jesus Christ removed any barrier between us and God.**

Leader: We reaffirm the reformers' commitment to justification by faith.

**People: May we respond to your gift of grace with faithful, obedient lives by showing love to others.**

**Unison: Grateful for our past and hopeful for our future, let us worship the living and loving God!**

### \*HYMN #275

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*  
Words and Music by Martin Luther, 1529

Glory to God

**A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.  
Our helper he, amid the flood, of mortal ill's prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe,  
his craft and power are great and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.**

**Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is he. Lord Sabaoth his name,  
from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.**

**And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him. His rage we can endure,  
for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.**

**That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also. The body they may kill;  
God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.**

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

Melissa Werner

Holy God, You know us better than we know ourselves. You see our need even when we are blind to it. You have made us to be Yours. In Your compassion, forgive us for the lack of faith and the harm we do to others. Forgive us for failing to see others as You see them. Forgive us for failing to love others as You love them. Forgive us for the many ways in which we fall short of our call to be Your disciples. Have mercy on us O God. Remove the blind spots from us that prevent us from being the people You call us to be. Remind us of who we are and whose we are. Forgive us and cleanse us and make us whole ....

(silent confession) .... Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**\*RESPONSE #463** (verses 2, 5)

*How Firm a Foundation*

Glory to God

Words from John Rippons, *A Selection of Hymns, 1787*; American Folk Melody

“Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no never, no, never forsake.”

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you!

**And also, with you.**

**CHILDREN’S SONG**

*He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands*

(use screens or bulletin)

Traditional African-American Spiritual

1. He’s got the whole world in his hands,  
He’s got the whole world in his hands,  
He’s got the whole world in his hands,  
He’s got the whole world in his hands.

2. He’s got everybody here in his hands,  
He’s got everybody here in his hands,  
He’s got everybody here in his hands,  
He’s got the whole world in his hands.

**TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Rev. Stewart Smith

**ANTHEM**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Chancel Choir

Words by William Williams; Music by John Hughes; Arranged by Mark Hayes

Xiao Yang, piano

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.  
Bear me through the swelling current, 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.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee. I will ever give to Thee.

# PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Stewart Smith

## SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup> When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>48</sup> Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>49</sup> Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." <sup>50</sup> So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." <sup>52</sup> Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

## SERMON

*"Presbyopia"*

Rev. Stewart Smith

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles' Creed)

Isaac Thomas

**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.**

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Isaac Thomas

## OFFERTORY

*Aria: Andante Cantabile (from Goldberg Variations, BWV 988)*  
Music by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Xiao Yang, organ

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Amanda McDonald

## \*RESPONSE #606

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*  
Words by Thomas Ken; Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551

Glory to God

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

### LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Stewart Smith

\*HYMN #300 (verses 1, 3, 4)

*They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*  
Words and Music by Peter Schlotens, 1966

Glory to God

**We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;  
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,  
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:  
and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit who makes us one:  
and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Stewart Smith

POSTLUDE

*Do Lord*  
19<sup>th</sup> century African American Spiritual; Arranged by Marianne Kim

Xiao Yang, organ

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

### Participants

Greeters – Sara Koenig and David Rogers

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

Worship Band: Rob Button, Dennis Brewer, Don Steinkraus, Jeffrey Kerst

Director of Christian Education - Kristi Button

Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministries - Amanda McDonald

Membership Coordinator – Amy McCann

Childcare Coordinator – Lee Pendley

Music and lyrics reprinted by permission, CCLI No. 2834670; CCLI Streaming License #20176939.  
All scriptures from NRSV.