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## SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 1, 2021 9:00am

*"It is possible to prepare for the future without knowing what it will be.  
The primary way to prepare for the unknown is to attend to the quality of our relationships,  
to how well we know and trust one another."*

*--Margaret Wheatley*

Prelude

What a Friend We Have in Jesus  
arr. Mark Hayes

\*Call to Worship

The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed;

**the smallest seeds bear the greatest fruit.**

The Holy One calls us to gather now.

**We come, answering the mystery which keeps calling us.**

The love of Christ urges us on.

\*Opening Prayer

**God of mind and heart, Sustainer of community, we gather today as your people, the children of your good news. Assure us of your presence once again, helping us to trust and seek you everywhere and always. Amen.**

\*Hymn # 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

\*Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

**Merciful God, you open paths for those who turn to you.**

**We confess our sins, and ask for your mercy.**

**We have failed in ways large and small,**

**settling for impoverished dreams and mistaking power for blessing.**

**We ask for your guidance but want our own opinions confirmed.**

**In your compassion, cleanse us from what separates us from you.  
Help us to trust our lives and our futures to your loving care.  
Restore to us the joy of your promises,  
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Amen.**

The mercy of the Lord is everlasting.  
I declare in the name of Jesus Christ that we are forgiven.  
**May the God of mercy strengthen us for goodness,  
and open us to the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*Response

Meineke

**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.**

Passing of the Peace

*Take a moment to greet those seated near you.*

Ministry Updates

*Offerings may be placed in offering basket at the back of the sanctuary after the service.*

Prayer for Illumination

**Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so  
that we may hear your Word and live your promises; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

2 Cor 4:16-18, 5:6-7

Special Music

The Medicine  
Common Hymnal

*Children are invited to meet Ms. Sara for story time in the Lounge.  
They will return to their families for communion after the sermon.*

Sermon

“Your Season of Gracious Uncertainty”

Rev. Bill Wilson

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and 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.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

**In this meal we have tasted and seen that you are good, O Lord.  
Give us hearts filled with your love, minds zealous to know you,  
hands and feet willing to serve you, and wills set on following you into the  
world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*Hymn

Psalm 23  
*Shane and Shane*

\*Blessing

\*You are invited to stand as you desire.

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRES**

**Leading us in worship today** are Rev. Bill Wilson, Guest Preacher; Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor; David Stone, Liturgist; Sandor Kadar, Director of Music; Eric Hankins, Director of Youth and Contemporary Ministries; Tracy Burke, vocalist; Brooke Gamble; vocalist; Kiana Rivera, vocalist; David Dickey, bass; Greg Ondo, percussion. Our greeters are Dan Campbell and Judy Reynolds.

**The Chancel Flowers** – are given by Lewis Peck, in memory of Muzetta J. Peck on her birthday; by Barbara Lade, in memory of loved ones; and by Grace Circle, in memory of Art Massey.

**Get Involved** – One of our church members lives in a small group home in Downingtown for young men with intellectual disabilities. These men haven't been able to attend their typical day program due to the pandemic, but are now able to receive visitors. If you enjoy playing music, making art, or bringing a pet to visit, please contact Pastor Caroline to get connected. Visits are arranged based on your schedule and availability.

**Parking on Sunday Mornings** - There are three spots along the Darlington Street side of the building that are designated for accessible parking on Sunday mornings. In addition, there is free parking on Sundays in Lot 9, which is in the next block of Miner Street.

**New Sunday School Teachers Needed:** In-person Sunday School for preschool and elementary aged children will resume this fall, and we are looking for some new volunteers to join the teaching teams. No prior teaching experience is necessary, just a willingness to partner with other teachers and to spend a couple Sunday mornings a month with the kids as they learn and grow in their faith. Contact Director of Faith Formation Sara Pantazes at [spantazes@firstpreswc.com](mailto:spantazes@firstpreswc.com) for more information.

**Movie Night - Save the Date!** On Friday, August 27 we'll be having an outdoor movie night at East Bradford Park. Stay tuned for more details!

**2021 Contributions** –Current contributions as of 7/28/2021 are \$588,942 out of \$1,047,133 budgeted.