



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

September 1, 2024

11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

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

RINGING OF THE BELL

Bo Morton

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Stewart Smith

PRELUDE

The Road Home
Music by Joseph M. Martin

Isaac Thomas, piano

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God!

People: **For once we were lost and felt so far away;
now we have been found and welcomed home.**

Leader: Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

People: **We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!**

Unison: **Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of love!**

*HYMN 187

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
Words by Dorothy A. Thrupp; Music by William B. Bradbury

Glory to God

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.**

**We are yours in love befriend us; be the guardian of our way.
Keep your flock: from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.**

**You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.**

**Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(seated, unison)*

Jo Rothrock

Merciful God, we confess that we at times stray from your ways. Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance. You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander the earth's resources and hoard its bounty. You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us commandments that lead to helping others, but too often we only look out for our own needs and needs of our families. Forgive us Lord. Draw our wandering hearts back to you. Remind us of your gracious love and that you run to meet us when we come back to you. *(silent confession)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

*RESPONSE 654

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful (sing twice)
Words by The Taizé Community; Music by Jacques Berthier

Glory to God

**In the Lord, I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord, I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S SONG (use screens or bulletin) *Strong Gentle Children*
Words and Music by Dan Damon

**Strong, gentle children, God made you beautiful,
gave you the wisdom and power you need;
speak in the stillness all you are longing for,
live out your calling to love and to lead.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Stewart Smith

ANTHEM

My Song in the Night
American Folk Hymn; Arranged by Mack Wilberg

Chancel Choir
Xiao Yang, piano

O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night,
come to us with Thy tender love, my soul's delight,
unto Thee O Lord in affliction I call,
my comfort by day and my song in the night.
O why should I wander an alien from Thee,
or cry in the desert Thy face to see?
My comfort and joy, my soul's delight,
O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Stewart Smith

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 15:11-32

¹¹Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years, I have

been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him! ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

SERMON

Coming Home

Rev. Stewart Smith

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles' Creed)

Rev. Stewart Smith

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

Kristi Button

OFFERTORY

Goin' Home

Isaac Thomas, piano

Music by Antonín Dvořák (based on an African-American Spiritual)

Arranged by Joseph M. Martin

*RESPONSE 601

Amen

Glory to God

Words: Traditional Liturgical Text; Music: Danish Tune

Amen. Amen. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Kristi Button

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy.... Therefore, we praise you, singing,
(Hymn 559) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, O God of majesty.... Great is the mystery of faith.

(Hymn 560) Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us... Send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

(Hymn 561) Amen, Amen, Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND SHARING OF THE CUP

There will be three communion stations at the front with a plate of bread and gluten free crackers at each, as well as a clay goblet of grape juice. There will be a **dedicated Gluten Free station close to the pulpit side.** We will be taking communion fully by intinction. (After you receive the elements, please use this time prayerfully and reflectively.)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION (*use hymnals or screens*)

Hymn 418

Softy and Tenderly

Glory to God

Hymn 440

Jesus Lover of My Soul

Glory to God

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

The gifts of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

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

Kristi Button

***HYMN 415 (verses 1, 3, 4)**

Come, Ye Sinners Poor and Needy

Glory to God

Words by Joseph Hart; Music from *Walker's Southern Harmony*
(A special offering for Cooperative Emergency Outreach (CEO) is received at this time by any who want to contribute)

**Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.**

[chorus] **I will arise and go to Jesus. He will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, O, there are ten thousand charms.**

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.** [chorus]

**Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness he requireth, is to feel your need of him.** [chorus]

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Stewart Smith

POSTLUDE

Coming Home

Isaac Thomas, piano

Music by Joseph M. Martin

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

Participants

Greeters – Al and Carol Hanna

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 Adult Ministries - Amanda McDonald

Membership Coordinator - Amy McCann

Childcare Coordinator - Lee Pendley