



FIRST WORSHIP – RELEVANT FAITH FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

695 Calvin St, Fayetteville, AR ● 479-442-4411 ● www.fupcfay.org

September 8, 2024

9:00 a.m

WELCOME

Call to Worship:

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

PRAISE MUSIC

Open the Eyes of my Heart, Lord

Words and music by Paul Baloche

CHORUS

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see You. I want to see You. (Repeat chorus)

VERSE

To see You high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love,
as we sing, "Holy, holy, holy."

BRIDGE

Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy: I want to see You.

Word of God Speak

Words and Music by Bart Millard and Pete Kipley

Word of God, speak. Would You pour down like rain
washing my eyes to see Your majesty,
to be still and know that You're in this place?
Please let me stay and rest in Your holiness.
Word of God, speak. (repeat chorus)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving God, we confess that in our arrogance, we assume we know things we have not experienced. Instead of seeing others as created in your image, we pass judgment on the lives others lead. We push away people who we perceive to be different from us. We find comfort in those who think, look, and act like us; forgetting that you created all of us to be contributing members of your body. Instead of living in true community, we look for the ways to separate ourselves from others, and in doing so, we separate ourselves from you. Grant us your mercy, restore us to the people you have called us to be, transform us so that we may tear down the walls we have built. (*silent confession*) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

FIRST SCHOOL WELCOME & PRAYERS FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

SCRIPTURE: John 3:1-10

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MESSAGE: Some Things Are Better Caught, Than Taught
Stewart Smith

Rev.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (from “A Brief Statement of Faith”)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

CALL TO OFFERING

Offering Song for Reflection:

Oceans

Words and music by Matt Crocker, Joel Houston,
and Salomon Ligthelm

VERSE

You call me out upon the waters,
the great unknown where feet may fail.
And there I find You in the mystery,
in oceans deep my faith will stand.

CHORUS

And I will call upon Your name
and keep my eyes above the waves
when oceans rise my soul will rest in Your embrace
for I am Yours and You are mine.
(Instrumental transition to verse)

VERSE 2

Your grace abounds in deepest waters,
Your sovereign hand will be my guide.
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start now.

CHORUS

And I will call upon Your name
and keep my eyes above the waves
when oceans rise my soul will rest in Your embrace
for I am Yours and You are mine.
(Instrumental transition to bridge)

BRIDGE

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders,
let me walk upon the waters wherever You would call me.
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
and my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Savior.

CHORUS

And I will call upon Your name
and keep my eyes above the waves
when oceans rise my soul will rest in Your embrace
for I am Yours and You are mine.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

God, in mystery. **Listen and have mercy.**

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.

SONG:

Way Maker

Words and music by Michael W. Smith

VERSE 1

You are here, moving in our midst.
I worship You, I worship You.
You are here, working in this place,
I worship You. I worship You. (repeat verse 1)

CHORUS

You are. Way maker, miracle worker,
promise keeper, Light in the darkness,
my God, that is who You are.
Way maker, miracle worker,
promise keeper, Light in the darkness,
my God, that is who You are.

VERSE 2

You are here, touching every heart.
I worship You, I worship You.
You are here, healing every heart,
I worship You. I worship You.

VERSE 3

You are here, turning lives around.
I worship You, I worship You.
You are here, mending every heart,
I worship You. I worship You.

(repeat chorus)

BRIDGE (sing twice)

That is who You are. That is who You are.
That is who you are. That is who You are.
(repeat chorus final time)

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Exiting Song & Passing of the Peace:

As we sing the final song, we ask that you leave the sanctuary singing together into The Gathering Place. We will use this time for fellowship and to pass the Peace of Christ after the service.

As We Go

Words and Music by Jeremy Johnson

As we go, may Your Spirit go before us.
As we go, may we follow where You lead.
May we live what we have learned,
share the message we have heard,
and be a light unto the world as we go.