



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

October 6, 2024

World Communion 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

Kristi Button

PRELUDE

Voluntary
Music by William Boyce (1711-1779)

Xiao Yang, organ

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: All around the world,

People: People rise to greet the morning and sing praise to the Creator.

Leader: All over the earth,

People: People hold hands around a table and offer thanks.

Leader: All around the globe,

People: Some cry for food, some are filled with laughter, all search for truth.

Leader: All around the world,

People: Hearts hear a sacred melody and yearn for peace.

Leader: Throughout this day, across many lands,

People: Sisters and brothers touch the bread of life and drink the cup of joy.

Leader: All around the world,

People: People sing and we join the unending chorus of praise.

Unison: Let us sing praise and worship the living and loving God!

*HYMN #611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Words by Henry van Dyke; Music by Ludwig van Beethoven

Glory to God

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!

Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays;

Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,

chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.

Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.

Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.

Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(seated, responsively)*

Jim Price

Leader: As we draw near to God this morning and prepare to receive from Christ's table the bread of heaven and the cup of eternal joy, let us make our prayer of confession before our Lord.

People: Loving God, You are our creator and our maker. You watch over us. Forgive us those times we have failed to acknowledge You; those times we have ignored You or thought we were alone. Forgive us when we have acted as if we could do all things by ourselves.

Leader: Loving God, You grant to us a family by birth or adoption and unite us through Christ with a family of the Spirit.

People: Forgive us God, when we have failed to love our family; for when we have rejected those who greeted us, or have shut our eyes and ears to their troubles. Forgive us when we closed ourselves to their songs and turned away from their celebrations.

Leader: Loving God, You call us to love one another as You love us and to let Your Spirit guide us and Your Word lead us each day.

People: We confess that we do not always open our lives to You and through You, to one another. We so often act as if we are alone; as if there was nowhere to turn. Forgive us, God. Heal our broken hearts, unite our broken families and mend our broken and divided world.

Leader: Lord, hear our prayer. Touch 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 #447**

We Are Forgiven

Glory to God

Words: Traditional; Music by Hal H. Hopson

**We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

CHILDREN'S SONG #2233

Where Children Belong

Sing the Faith

Words and Music by James Ritchie

**This, this is where children belong,
Welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:
This is where children belong.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Kristi Button

ANTHEM

Canticle of Hope

Chancel Choir

Based on Isaiah 25; Words by J. Paul Williams; Music by Joseph Martin

Xiao Yang, piano

Lord, you are God, perfect in holiness. Lord, you are God of the needy and the poor.
A sure defender, you are our refuge. You are the Giver. You are Jehovah.
You are the God who restores. Lord, you are God, reigning in righteousness.
Lord, you are God in the time of our distress. We call on you, our sure salvation.
Lord, you are faithful. You are the God who restores.
Lord, you are God, ruling in gentleness. Lord, you are God. You wipe away each tear.
You hear our every prayer. You give us comfort. You touch our hearts and calm our fears.
You are eternal, Alpha, Omega. We place our hope in you alone.
Lord, you are God, perfect in holiness. Lord, you are God. In our darkness you are everlasting light.
A sure defender, you are our refuge. You are the Giver. You are Jehovah.
You are the God who restores. Great is thy faithfulness. Great is thy faithfulness.
Great is thy faithfulness. You are the God who restores. Your love restores.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Stewart Smith

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 22:1-18

For three years Aram and Israel continued without war. ² But in the third year King Jehoshaphat of Judah came down to the king of Israel. ³ The king of Israel said to his servants, "Do you know that Ramoth-gilead belongs to us, yet we are doing nothing to take it out of the hand of the king of Aram?" ⁴ He said to Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to battle at Ramoth-gilead?" Jehoshaphat replied to the king of Israel, "I am as you are; my people are your people; my horses are your horses." ⁵ But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, "Inquire first for the word of the Lord." ⁶ Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred of them, and said to them, "Shall I go to battle against Ramoth-gilead, or shall I refrain?" They said, "Go up, for the Lord will give it into the hand of the king." ⁷ But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there no other prophet of the Lord here of whom we may inquire?" ⁸ The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat,

“There is still one other by whom we may inquire of the Lord, Micaiah son of Imlah, but I hate him, for he never prophesies anything favorable about me but only disaster.” Jehoshaphat said, “Let the king not say such a thing.”⁹ Then the king of Israel summoned an officer and said, “Bring quickly Micaiah son of Imlah.”¹⁰ Now the king of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah were sitting on their thrones, arrayed in their robes, at the threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria, and all the prophets were prophesying before them.¹¹ Zedekiah son of Chenaanah made for himself horns of iron, and he said, “Thus says the Lord: With these you shall gore the Arameans until they are destroyed.”¹² All the prophets were prophesying the same and saying, “Go up to Ramoth-gilead and triumph; the Lord will give it into the hand of the king.”¹³ The messenger who had gone to summon Micaiah said to him, “Look, the words of the prophets with one accord are favorable to the king; let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak favorably.”¹⁴ But Micaiah said, “As the Lord lives, whatever the Lord says to me, that I will speak.”¹⁵ When he had come to the king, the king said to him, “Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we refrain?” He answered him, “Go up and triumph; the Lord will give it into the hand of the king.”¹⁶ But the king said to him, “How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?”¹⁷ Then Micaiah said, “I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains like sheep that have no shepherd, and the Lord said, ‘These have no master; let each one go home in peace.’”¹⁸ The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy anything favorable about me but only disaster?”

SERMON

On Bridging the Space Between Us

Rev. Stewart Smith

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that at the Lord's supper the community of believers is renewed by the memory of Christ's life and death, by his real presence in the power of the Holy Spirit, and by the promise of his coming again. Christ makes himself known to us in the breaking of bread. He offers us his body broken for our sake and his blood shed for the forgiveness of our sins. We accept his promises and gifts and depend on his life to sustain ours. In turn we offer ourselves in thanksgiving to the risen Lord who has conquered death. So we celebrate his victory here and now and anticipate the joyous feast in his coming kingdom. Reunited around one loaf and cup, we receive strength and courage to continue our pilgrimage with God in the world.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Amanda McDonald

OFFERTORY

God Be with You till We Meet Again
Music by William G. Tomer; Arranged by Marianne Kim

Xiao Yang, organ

*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.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Amanda McDonald

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Stewart Smith

A LITURGY FOR THE SPACE BETWEEN US (by Sarah Bauer Anderson)

For family near and peaceable, **Lord, we give thanks.**
For family far and conflicted, **Lord, we give thanks.**
For the ones easy to love, **Lord, we give thanks.**
For the ones we fight to love, **Lord, we give thanks.**
For people who see as we see, **Lord, we give thanks.**
For people we don't understand, **Lord, we give thanks.**
For easy conversation and expressed affection, **Lord, we give thanks.**
For gentle discord within our discourse, **Lord, we give thanks.**
For unity, not sameness, **Lord, we give thanks.**
For charity in all things, **Lord, we give thanks.**
For a world that reflects your goodness, **Lord, we give thanks.**
For humankind that bears your image, **Lord, we give thanks.**
For a day when we'll delight in our differences and not just tolerate them,
For gathering of every tribe and every tongue,

For a table and a feast today, anticipating the one we'll enjoy with You someday,
Lord, we give thanks. Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit....

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND SHARING OF CUP

(There will be three communion stations at the front with a plate of bread and gluten-free crackers at each and a clay goblet of grape juice. The silver goblet from the Lord's Table will be held as a fourth goblet at the center station and will be the dedicated Gluten-Free only goblet. We will be taking communion fully by intinction. (After you receive the elements, please use this time prayerfully and reflectively.)

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

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

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

503 Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

504 We Come As Guests Invited

509 All Who Hunger, Gladly Gather

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Stewart Smith

*HYMN #301 (verses 1, 3)

Let Us Build a House

Glory to God

Words and Music by Marty Haugen

**Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions: all are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;
A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Stewart Smith

POSTLUDE

Toccata in E Minor

Xiao Yang, organ

Music by Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

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

Participants

Greeters --Laurie Reh and Steve Adair

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, Drew Parker, and Greg Merrell

Director of Christian Education - Kristi Button

Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministries - Amanda McDonald

Membership Coordinator – Amy McCann

Childcare Coordinator – Lee Pendley

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

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