



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

February 2, 2025

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 in D Minor
Music by G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Xiao Yang, organ

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kristi Button

Leader: We are gifted people because of God's gracious design with which God created us.

People: Some are gifted in teaching, some in administration; and still others in benevolent service.

Leader: The greatest gift of all is love. It is the gift that makes all the others effective.

People: We cannot carry out the task God has assigned to us as God's church, gifted as we are, without the gift of love.

Leader: The perfect demonstration of God's love is the gift of Jesus Christ.

People: We are called to share that love with others.

Unison: We bring praise today to the God of love. Let us worship the living and loving God!

*HYMN #627 (sing twice)

I Love You, Lord
Words and Music by Laurie Klein

Glory to God

**I love You Lord, and I lift my voice to worship You; O my soul, rejoice.
Take joy my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(seated, unison)*

Leigh Woodruff

We are in Your Service, loving God, gifted by Your benevolent love. But so much of our service has been wasted talent made worthless by the lack of love. Forgive us for our pride, our arrogance, our boasting, our selfish stubbornness. Forgive us, O God, for breaking faith; for forgetting that we are kept by Your faithfulness; for expecting the best to be the shortest and easiest; for wanting life to be exciting but not risky; for having ears and not hearing; for having eyes and not seeing; for breaking our promises and forgetting Yours; for covering Your light and often keeping silent; for not fully guarding our love. Forgive us and have mercy on us, O God. Help us to put away our childish ways of greed and quarreling; that we might serve You with the perfect gift of love.

(silent confession) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

***RESPONSE #623** (verses 1, 3)

I've Got Peace Like a River
African American spiritual

Glory to God

**I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.
I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.**

**I've got love like an ocean; I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean; I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Kristi Button

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

CHILDREN'S SONG #2233

Where Children Belong
Words and Music by James Ritchie

Sing the Faith

**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

Rev. Stewart Smith

ANTHEM

How Beautiful
Words and Music by Twila Paris; Arranged by Craig Courtney
Chancel Choir
Amy Bearbower, soloist
Xiao Yang, piano

How beautiful the hands that served the wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.
How beautiful the feet that walked the long dusty roads and the hill to the cross.
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.
How beautiful the heart that bled, that took all my sin and bore it instead.
How beautiful the tender eyes that choose to forgive and never desire.
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.
And as He laid down His life, we offer this sacrifice: that we will live just as He died,
willing to pay the price, willing to pay the price.
How beautiful the radiant Bride who waits for her Groom with His light in her eyes.
How beautiful when humble hearts give the fruit of pure lives so that others may live.
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.
How beautiful the feet that bring the sound of good news and the love of the King.
How beautiful the hands that serve the wine and the bread and the sons of the earth.
How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Stewart Smith

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH***The Nicene Creed*

Amanda McDonald

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**OFFERTORY**

What Sweeter Music
Music by John Rutter

Xiao Yang, organ

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**THE INVITATION****COMMUNION 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.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND SHARING OF CUP

There will be three communion stations at the front with a plate of bread and a 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 screens or hymnal)

Glory to God

521 In Remembrance of Me

526 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

527 Eat This Bread

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**SENDING****LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

Rev. Stewart Smith

***HYMN #693**

Though I May Speak (The Gift of Love)
Words by Hal H. Hopson; Music: English Folk Melody

Glory to God

**Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

**Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship and are freed.**

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Stewart Smith

Greeters – Chris Bell and David Rodgers

Interim Senior Pastor – Rev. Stewart Smith

Minister of Music/Commissioned Ruling Elder – Isaac Thomas

Choral Interns - 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

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All scriptures from NRSV.