

**PRELUDE**

Trio Sonata in E Minor, BWV 528

Johann Sebastian Bach

**GREETING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**✦ CALL TO WORSHIP**

God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, is faithful.

**He is a faithful Lord, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.**

His faithfulness reaches to the skies and continues throughout all generations on into eternity.

**We therefore praise the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ in this assembly, saying, “Great is your faithfulness! We will exalt and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things. Great is your faithfulness to us, O Lord, our God.”**

**✦ HYMN 35** Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty **LOBE DEN HERREN**

**✦ CALL TO CONFESSION**

**✦ PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. *(Silent Confession)*

In Your name we pray, **Amen.**

**✦ DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Believe in the good news of the Gospel. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**✦ PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**  
*(Please extend the Peace of Christ to those around you saying....)*

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

**✦ RESPONSE 435** There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy **IN BABILONE**

There's a \_\_\_ wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the \_\_\_ wide - ness of \_\_\_ the sea.

There's a \_\_\_ kind - ness in God's jus - tice, which is \_\_\_ more than lib - er - ty.

There is \_\_\_ no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in \_\_\_ heav - en.

There is \_\_\_ no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly \_\_\_ judg - ment given.

**MINUTE FOR BLESSING**

PDA matching gift and Peace and Global witness offering

**BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN**

*Following the Blessing of the Children, children 4 years old through 3rd grade may go room 110 for Godly Play. Children 2 and 3 will go to room 107.*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**LESSON** Psalm 145: 1-8 **Page 506**  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

Holy Art Thou **GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL**  
Holy, most holy art thou, Lord God Almighty, who wert and art, and art to come. Glory and majesty in heaven are thine. Earth lowly bending, swells the full harmony, blessing and glory to the Lamb for evermore; let all nation and kindreds and peoples give thanks to thee for evermore!

**LESSON** Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17 **Pages 20-22**  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** Using The Broken **Rev. Jessica Myers**

**✦ HYMN 688** Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart **MORECAMBE**

**✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Scripture is filled with stories of imperfect people.

**People who lie and cheat. People who hurt and kill.**

Selfish people. Greedy people.

**Why are some of these people so special in God’s story?**

Take Jacob, for example.

**Jacob, the heel grabber, desperate to be the twin born first.**

Jacob, the cheater, taking his brother’s birthright for a bowl of soup.

**Jacob, the liar, deceiving his own father to get the blessing that should have been his brother’s.**

But it is Jacob that God calls “Israel.”

**It is Jacob who sees heaven in a dream, who hears God’s voice.**

It is Jacob, the imperfect, who is blessed by a perfect God.

**God’s story is also our story today.**

We are, every one of us, imperfect people.

**Maybe we aren’t liars or cheaters or killers.**

Maybe our sins are different. But they are still sins.

**We still celebrate ourselves too much. We still neglect to care for others, too often. We still fall far, far short.**

But God calls us “Beloved.”

**We are the ones God blesses and gifts.**

We are, improbably, most special in God’s eyes.

**Scripture is filled with the stories of imperfect people used by God for great blessing.**

Let us read the stories of Jacob and so many others.

**And let us see ourselves in these flawed human beings.**

Let us remember that we are God’s special ones.

**And then let us try to live up to that great, great blessing. Amen!**

**OFFERING**

**Offertory** We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder **Traditional**

We are climbing Jacob’s ladder,

We are climbing Jacob’s ladder,

We are climbing Jacob’s ladder,

Soldiers of the cross.

Every round goes higher, higher,

Every round goes higher, higher,

Every round goes higher, higher,

Soldiers of the cross.

Sinner, do you love my Jesus?

Sinner, do you love my Jesus?

Sinner, do you love my Jesus?

Soldiers of the cross.

If you love Him, why not serve him?

If you love Him, why not serve him?

If you love Him, why not serve him?

Soldiers of the cross.

**✦ Response 708** We Give Thee but Thine Own **SCHUMANN**

We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be; \_\_\_ all

that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

**✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.**

**MESSAGES OF OUR LIFE IN COMMUNITY**

**✦ HYMN 403** Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty **UNSER HERRSCHER**

**✦ BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Festal Flourish

Gordon Jacob

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

## WELCOME TO FPC FINDLAY

We hope that you experience the power of God's presence while you are among us this morning. We are a busy congregation, seeking to find God's vision for us as we confront a changing and challenging world outside our community of faith. There are many ways we try to be faithful to God. We invite you to join us in these ministries. See our website for more information or contact Pastor Jessie Myers at [jessie@findlayfpc.org](mailto:jessie@findlayfpc.org)

## CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Childcare is provided for **infants and children under 2 years** of age on the first floor in Room 107A. A paging system is available. Childcare is available 9:15am -11:45am.

**Children up to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade** – following the *Blessing of the Children*, will be escorted to Room 110 for *GODLY PLAY* children's worship. At 10:45am they will be escorted to Room 107 for a FAITH ENRICHMENT class.

**Red Worship Bags** for children preschool age through third grade and **White Worship Bags for 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders** are available on the rack in the Narthex.

*Please return the worship bags to the tray under the rack following worship.*

## WORSHIP NOTES

**The flowers for worship** are given by Pastor Jessie Myers in honor of her husband Jason and 8 great years of marriage.

**First Presbyterian Church** follows the liturgical calendar to mark the seasons of our life together as Christians. We are currently in the season of Pentecost or Ordinary Time, which lasts from Trinity Sunday to the First Sunday of Advent. The color GREEN symbolizes the renewal of living things and the promise of new life and growth for the Church. The DOSSAL CURTAIN, behind the Cross, and the paraments on pulpit and lectern visually depict a saying of Jesus: *"Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living waters"* -John 7:30. It also reminds us of the words *"Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream"* -Amos 5:24. The TREE OF LIFE, on either side of the Chancel depicts Revelation 22:2 *"On either side of the river was the tree of life, and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."* The Celtic cross hanging on the dossal was designed and carved by Dr. Richard Deerhake and Dr. Emil Ziegler, dedication to Thomas L. Clancey and Jacob P. Deerhake.

**Friendship Pad:** *Members and visitors - during the MESSAGES OF OUR LIFE IN COMMUNITY please sign the friendship pad and pass it down the pew for others to sign. The friendship pad is located on the seat of the pew closest to the center aisle. We encourage all to greet visitors and friends after worship.*

✠ Please stand if you are able. **Bold** type indicates congregational response.

It's appropriate to use the congregational **AMEN** at the conclusion of all prayers in the service.

*We ask that you please turn all cell phones to "silent" during the worship service.*

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## WORSHIP LEADERS

**Pastor:** Rev. Jessica Myers

**Director of Music:** Brent Neuenschwander

**Liturgist:** Rev. Dr. Richard Merrick

**Lay Reader:** Kathy Hirschfeld

**Greeters & Ushers:** Kendra Sponsler, Pat Haley, Mike & Nina Marshall

**Musicians:** Chancel Choir

**Audio:** Andrew Pueschel

**Video Crew:** Director: Dana Bourne

Camera Operators: Karissa Brown & Patty Weiler

Video Sound: Duncan McMath

Video Editor: Rollie Smith

## 10:45 A.M. TODAY

SEMINAR ..... FELLOWSHIP HALL  
Mayor Lydia Mihalik & Sheriff Michael Heldman presenting

CHARACTER BUILDERS.....ROOM 209-210

RECEPTION FOR CHRIS BUTTERWORTH.....PARLOR

YOUTH GROUP.....ROOM 201

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Artist Series** will present the Toledo Symphony Orchestra Brass Ensemble **today**, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm in the Sanctuary. The concert is free and a free-will offering will be taken. Upcoming Artist Series Concerts include Barbara Lister-Sink, Piano on October 15<sup>th</sup> and Brent Neuenschwander, Organ on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

The **INTERIM PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE** and Session are very pleased to announce that First Presbyterian Church will be welcoming our interim minister next Sunday. The Rev. Dr. John William Lindeman (Bill) has accepted our offer and will be moving to Findlay from North Carolina. We are confident Rev. Lindeman possesses the knowledge and the pastoral presence to lead our congregation forward. See this week's newsletter for more information or pick up a letter from the table in the entry. Join us **next Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>** for a reception welcoming Rev. Bill at 10:45 after the morning service.

**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE** – Help those affected by hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Thanks to an anonymous donor, there is a \$6,000 matching gift for PDA. We encourage you all to give! See this week's newsletter or the PDA website for more information. You may also contact Joan Work on the Mission Committee at [rjwork@roadrunner.com](mailto:rjwork@roadrunner.com) or call 419.306.7201

**Reformation 500 Evening Class** – Beginning in the evenings at 6:00pm starting **October 1<sup>st</sup>** in the Fellowship Hall. We will look at various elements of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Protestant Reformation.

**WHAT'S OUR STORY? - A Theme for the Year Ahead** – During the next 9 months in worship we will be taking a journey through scripture, the story of God's people. Instead of using the Bible verses that we typically follow (called the lectionary), we're going to be hearing and finding new meaning in texts that we haven't read or thought about since we were children.

### FALL SCHEDULE HAS BEGUN:

- **The 8am Communion Worship Service in the Chapel** has resumed. The service will be an abbreviated version of the 9:30am service with communion and a time for conversation about the sermon.
- **Godly Play** – Today's lesson is about Noah and the Ark. Making things new, prayer, the promise of the rainbow and starting over.
- **Youth Group – LOCK-IN! October 6<sup>th</sup>**, we will meet at the church at 7:00 then head to a haunted house for some scary fun! (\$20) Then we'll head back to the church for games, snacks, fellowship, and maybe some sleep! Mission fun in the morning! Have parents pick you up at 12 noon.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Service for  
the Lord's Day*

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017  
25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
9:30 A.M. – SANCTUARY

*We are an active open community of Christians  
seeking to know and glorify God,  
nurturing all people and sharing Christ's love and teachings.*