

Interactive Bulletin 2.2.25

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Scripture Reflection

Good morning. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Welcome to worship with First Presbyterian Church on this day of our Congregational Celebration! I'm Dan Cravy. I'm privileged to serve as pastor of this church family. And as I come upon my 20th anniversary in April, this marks my 20th celebration with FPC./

Each year it is our tradition to come together
to celebrate what God is doing among us,
to share stories of how we have experienced Christ
in our lives and through our church.

Paul writes the Ephesians that 'we are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.' – Ephesians 2.10

That word, 'handiwork,' comes from the Greek word *poema*. The affirmation is that we are God's poetry. God's craftsmanship. God's masterpiece. God's unfinished but beautiful work of art. Not because of what we have done. Not because of what we own. Not because of who we know. But because God has created us, stamped us with God's own image, and is at work in who we are and who we are becoming! We are his handiwork. God's unfinished works of art.

In our Annual Report mailed to your homes this week and in our worship this morning we will hear from members and friends responding to the question:

How have you experienced Christ at work in your life and/or through this church in the last year?

How grateful we are for you who have *written* reflections for us (Chris Decker, Judy Gilman, Andrew Baklund) and for you who will be sharing with us today (Sean Barry, Colter Cravy, John MacDonald, Barbara Miller).

Call to Worship

One: We gather to share in our love of God.

All: Lord, open our hearts and let us share your Good News.

One: We gather to share our witness to God's goodness.

All: Lord, let our lives bear witness through service to your people.

One: We gather to praise God, whose love is eternal.

All: Lord, open our hearts today to sing your praises.

One: Let us bring our praise to God!

Gathering Song: Gather Us In

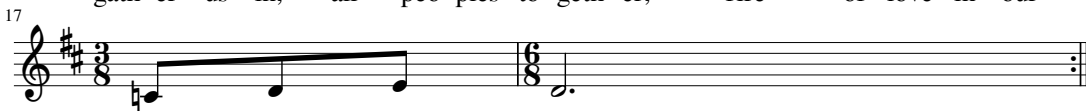
Here in this place, ... new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
Here we re-ceive new life in the wa - ters; here we re-ceive the
Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav en,
van-ished a - way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh ters,
light years a way, here in this place the new light is shin ing;
brought here to you in the light of this day. Gath-er us in, the
call us a new to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the
now is God pres ent, and now is the day. Gath er us in and



lost and for - sak - en; gath - er us in; the blind and the lame;
 wine of com pas sion; give us to eat the bread that is you;
 hold us for ev er; gath er us in and make us your own;



Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en; we shall a - rise at the
 nour ish us well, and teach us to fash ion lives that are ho ly and
 gath er us in, all peo ples to geth er, fire of love in our



sound of our name.
 hearts that are true.
 flesh and our bone.

Marty Haugen***

PRAISING & BELONGING

Prayer of Adoration

Faithful God, we come into Your presence with thanksgiving,
 deeply grateful for your unfailing love and faithfulness.

You draw near to us in our joy and in our struggle,
 You meet us in our calm and in our chaos.

What comfort that You know our stories.

So God of compassion and love, move among us this hour.

We turn to you for healing and freedom in the places we are burdened and bound. Open our eyes, dispel our fears, bolster our
 courage and show us the real life you have to offer.

We pray this in the name of our Rescuer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reflection 1: Sean Barry

Reflection 2: Colter Cravy

Invitation to Offering

This morning, we've heard reflections on the goodness of God in the midst of our life journeys. Sometimes we recognize God in it
 all, and sometimes we don't... but the promise is that God is always with us, not just when everything seems clear and times are
 good, but also when we struggle with questions, with doubt, with pain and deep suffering. When we cry out to God, our prayers are
 heard. Our gifts this morning are just one way to give gratitude to a God who is always listening, always reaching out to us, always
 with us. So let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God.

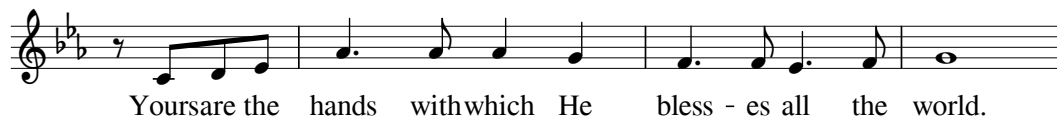
Song: Christ Has No Body Now But Yours



Christ has no bo - dy now but yours.



No hands, no feet on earth but yours.



Lyrics by Teresa of Avila; Music by David Ogden**

Reflection 3: John MacDonald

Reflection 4: Barbara Miller

FORMING

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

What is one of the best snacks ever? [graham crackers and milk, cheese sticks, crisp carrots, chocolate chip cookies...]

In worship we come to a Table that Jesus sets for us. What's on the table?

What do we taste when we come to the Lord's Table? What does Jesus want to give us?
[love, forgiveness, truth, laughter, hope, peace, rest, comfort, ...BELONGING]

Belonging. What does it feel like to belong? [warm, happy, secure, glad, joyful, full...]

The Bread and Cup promise the nourishment. Filling. Warmth. Of belonging to Christ.
And to one another.

Names?

Isaiah 43:

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you [name, name]..
he who formed you [name, name]...

Do not fear, for I have [set you free from going it alone];
I have called you by name; you are mine.

Every time you come to the Table, you get a taste of Belonging. To Jesus. To one another. And some day that taste will become a whole feast!

Let's pray.

Thank you, Lord, for welcoming us to the Table.

Thank you for making us belong to you.

Thank you for making us belong to one another in this family called church.

Thank you for giving us hope of a day when the taste of belonging will be a full banquet feast.

We pray for everyone in our church family.

We pray for everyone who is hurting, all who want or need to belong.

We pray for people who hurt other people to be able to stop it.

We pray for deep sadness and hurting hearts to be healed.

We pray for love to fill the world. With belonging to you. With belonging to your Love.

Would you make this bread and cup a taste of what it means to be warm and safe at the table with God and God's family?

Amen.

On the same night that Jesus' friends would run away from him, he welcomed them to a feast to celebrate God's love for them. Isn't that amazing!?

He took the bread, and when he had given thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to these friends. He said 'This is my body given for you. Eat it remembering me.'

And then he took the cup of grape wine and said, 'This is my blood poured out for you. Drink it remembering me.' He wanted them to taste his very self. His very heart of love for them. Their belonging.

This is Jesus' table. Everyone belongs here. Even the people who don't think they do. Even the ones we sometimes don't think we want here with us. Even the ones who may think we don't want them. Jesus' love is much bigger than ours. Everyone belongs.

That's why we need to come to the table over and over and be surprised by how much everyone belongs.

Will the servers come forward?

There are both bread and gluten free wafers so this table can be for everyone. Kids, go find your families and come with them. We invite you to come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisles.

Come taste how much belonging is heaped up here and be surprised by Jesus' love!

Communion Song: Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer.

There is no more for heaven now to give.

He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,

My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus

for my life is wholly bound to his.

Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing, all is mine!

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,

for by my side, the Savior, he will stay.

I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,

for in my need, his power is displayed.

To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me;

through the deepest valley he will lead.

Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome:

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven.

The future sure, the price, it has been paid.

For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,

and he was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold: my sin has been defeated!

Jesus now and ever is my plea.

Oh, the chains are released; I can sing, I am free!

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath, I long to follow Jesus,

for he has said that he will bring me home.
And day by day, I know he will renew me
until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me
Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson and Michael Farren**

SENDING

Benediction

Again, an invitation to join us for breakfast and for the Annual Meeting of First Presbyterian Church in our Fellowship Hall – just across the Bridge Walkway.

Sisters and brothers, we all of us are God's poetry,
God's unfinished works of art, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which is what God created us for from the very beginning.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! And all God's people said: Amen!

FPC Ministry Staff:
Pastor: Dan Cravy
Worship Director: Emma Thackston
Children, Youth and Family Director: Austin Graef
Church Operations Manager: Becky Kress
Program Support Administrator: Jo Ruby
Church Secretary: Haleigh Adair
Facility Steward: Robert Miller
Bell Choir Director: Tomi Kent
Parish Associates: Rev. Janet Malone and Rev. Bob Schurr
Preaching Pastor, Blackfoot Church of the Potomac: Natalie Mauer

Leading in Worship This Morning:
Celebration of the Lord's Supper: Dan Cravy
Musicians: Chris Caldwell, Emma Thackston, Joselyn Thomsen, Marley Ball
Slide, Sound and Video Techs: Dan McCaffery,
Madison Spencer and Ron Righter

**Reprinted under CCLI license #47079
***Reprinted under Onelicense #A-713782