

ORDER OF WORSHIP
7th Sunday after Pentecost
July 16, 2023
10:25AM

HYMN SING

Mary Jo Cox, piano

WELCOME

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

David Stevens

One: Your word is a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path.

All: **Your word is our heritage forever,
the joy of our hearts.**

*HYMN No. 15

All Creatures of Our God and King

*CALL TO CONFESSION

(Silent Confession)

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God we are quick to say, “We didn’t know.” “We didn’t mean to.” “We didn’t expect that to happen.” But we have not tended the soil of our lives. We let it stay shallow and rocky by not learning from the experience of others. We let it be riddled with thorns by succumbing to our own prejudices. Life-giving God, help us to tend our soil. Open us to being challenged, enable us to learn, so that your world will take root and bear good fruit in our lives. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*RESPONSE No. 581

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 119:105-112

Amen. **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:15-17

The Spirit speaks to the church today. **Thanks be to God.**

THIRD SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

The Spirit speaks to the church today. Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

“Prayerfully Singing”

Rev. Dr. Susan Sickelka

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32-33*

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church’s mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind in need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God’s judgement on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church’s own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God’s renewal of human life in society and of God’s victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord. Amen.

*HYMN No. No. 470

There is a Longing in our Hearts

(see Hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER AND 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 sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN No. 450

Be Thou My Vision

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE No. 748 *Go With Us, Lord*

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.**

Text: Mary Jackson Cathey 1986, Hope Publishing Co.
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*POSTLUDE

Toccatà

Johann Pachelbel

*NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS, SO GO IN PEACE AND SERVE THE LORD

Notes:

*Stand in body and spirit.

Worship Leaders: Mary Jo Cox, David Stevens, and Susan Sickelka

The Prayers and Concern of the Congregation are extended to:

Dana Hendershot, Betty Gempel, Pat Campbell, Jillian & Flynn Gray, Scott Brigham, Clarice Miller (Andrew Miller's Mother), John Monahan, Martha Loubert (sister-in-law of John, Pete, and Sheri Loubert), Heidi Long, Lois Miller, Jaime Love (brother of Kevin Love), Louisa Ellis (Jeff & Cam Ellis granddaughter), Olivia Geisthardt (friend of Anna Clare Miller), Suzanne Hand, Dottie Theunissen, Charles Loubert, Jim Gilbert, Peter and Verna Russell, David Neyer, Lois Kerr, Sarah Gilbert, Joyce McNabb, Colleen Long, Lavona Osborne. Cathy Chang, Juan Lopez, and Noah Lapp, Vowles Elementary, Fraser Presbyterian, Cass City, MI, Presbyterian Church in Rwanda, and Therapy Dogs International.

Offering

If you are joining us for worship in-person and would like to give an offering, please place your offering in an offering plate. You can also give your pledge, per capita payment, or offering by mailing it to the church office: First Presbyterian Church, 1250 Watson Road, Mt. Pleasant, 48858. You can also give an offering by going to the church's website, www@fpcmp.org and hit the "Give Now" button or use the QR Code,



Please join us for a time of fellowship after worship.

Rev. Dr. Susan P. Sickelka biographical statement

Dr. Sickelka grew up in San Jose, California but attended Alma College. She graduated in 1981 with a BA in History, Art, and Education. Moving to Minnesota for work she attended United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, graduating in 1986 with an MDiv in parish ministry. After ordination into the United Church of Christ she married her husband, David, and has served congregations in five states of the upper Midwest. In 2019 she received her DMin from Luther Seminary, with a focus in Biblical Preaching.

She and her husband have two adult children, two grandchildren (with two more on the way), and two dogs. Together they are restoring an historic house in Mt. Pleasant, and are establishing a UCC presence.

Empty Egg Cartons Needed

If you are looking for a way to recycle your egg cartons, please bring them to the church office and we will get them to the Food Pantry of Community Compassion Network to fill them with eggs to give to those who are dealing with food insecurity.

Peanut Butter

The food pantry of Community Compassion Network needs peanut butter. Please bring it to the church and we will make sure it is taken to the Strickler Center and given to the food pantry.

Worship on the Front Lawn

Worship on the Front Lawn will take place the second Sunday of the month for the Summer August 13, and September 10 at 10:30AM. This is a good worship service to invite a friend to join us. Make sure you bring your lawn/camping chair for the worship service.