



First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin

September 17, 2023

Sanctuary Worship, 10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

BELL PEAL, WELCOME & PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Eric Houghton, Liturgist

ONE: Strength is commanding the wind and sea to obey,

ALL: Strength is wielding a slingshot in the face of a raging giant.

ONE: Strength is accepting vulnerability from inside the boat,

ALL: Strength is standing in solidarity with the powerless.

ONE: Strength is turning a cheek,

ALL: Strength is loving an enemy.

We come to worship a God

who redefines our vision of strength.

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

***HYMN 2236 (in Sing the Faith) Gather Us In**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ALL: God of mercy,

As we journey toward peace we face many obstacles,

The path is not always smooth,

the surface is uneven.

We stumble along the way,

in our families and in our communities.

Forgive us, O God.

(A time of silence is observed for personal confession.)

Guide our steps so that we may see

the beauty of peace and love in community.

Strengthen us to continue this journey.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

ONE: Beloved Community, God shows us a different way—
a way of truth, honor, justice, love and peace.

This path is open to all if we reach out and accept God's forgiveness.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

We will live as God's people, forgiven, loved and freed.

***SUNG RESPONSE Sing the Faith 2157 – Come and Fill Our Hearts**

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia!

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

Pew Bible, page 93

LITURGIST: The Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

CHORAL RESPONSE – I Choose Love

Thompson/Miller

In the midst of pain, I choose love.

In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,

I await the sun again, I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.

In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,

I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.

When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,

I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.

In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,

I await the sun again, I choose love

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 5:38-42

Pew Bible, page 786

PASTOR: The Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to You, O Christ!

SERMON

Rev. Dr. David Shelor

***HYMN (on insert) We Shall Overcome**

RESPONSE

We give of our whole selves in gratitude for all of God's gifts.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from the Confession of 1967

ALL: 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 all 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 of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL: 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.**

CALL TO LOVE, JUSTICE & PEACE

Your generosity builds God's beloved community and changes lives!
At FPC, we gratefully and joyfully welcome your giving in several ways:

In-Person: Offering plates are available at the exits after worship.

Online: Via your bank or by going to www.fpcdunedin.org and clicking "GIVE."

Volunteer: Ask for a "Volunteer Opportunities" brochure or contact our office.

CHORAL RESPONSE – Until Love Is Spoken

Marrolli

*Grant us gentleness in power. Grant us strength to face this hour,
To forgive, to offer grace, and nurture peace in every place.*

*Grant us hope when all seems dire. Grant us faith to spark a fire,
To fiercely burn, to drown the night, and set the world ablaze with light.*

*And when we meet resistance and our call puts us in danger,
Grant us patience and persistence to stand up for friend and stranger.*

*Grant us courage to be kind.
Grant us singleness of mind to free the world from hate and fear,
so only love is spoken here.*

*And when our path of justice leads us to the dreadful fight,
grant us vigor, and entrust us with the power to do what's right.*

*Grant us courage to be kind.
Grant us singleness of mind to free the world from hate and fear,
so only love is spoken here.*

***DOXOLOGY** Hymnal #591

**ALL: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

***PRAYER**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***HYMN (on insert) – We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom**

***BENEDICTION, GREETING & POSTLUDE**

***You are invited to share in a time of fellowship and refreshment!
Please join us now in Hager Hall! All are welcome!***

