



# First Presbyterian Church

Norman Fowler, Pastor    September 13, 2020    10:30 a.m.

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## **PREPARING OURSELVES TO WORSHIP GOD**

Prelude

“Trio”

Josef Rheinberger

Abigail Silverberg, piano

Welcome and Announcements

*Please feel free to leave a message in the chat section as a way of greeting one another this morning.*

## **ENTERING INTO GOD’S PRESENCE**

Call to Worship

Psalm 14

*various translations*

- <sup>1</sup> The scoundrels say in their hearts, “There is no God.”  
They corrupt, they do abominable deeds;  
there is none who does good.
- <sup>2</sup> The LORD from heaven looks down on the children of  
humankind  
to see if there is someone who is discerning,  
someone seeking after God.
- <sup>3</sup> All turn astray, all together perverse;  
there is none who does good,  
no, not one.
- <sup>4</sup> Do they not know, all the evildoers?  
Devourers of my people devoured them.  
They do not call upon the LORD?
- <sup>5</sup> Then did they fear fear itself,  
because God is the dwelling of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> You who would confound the plans of the poor are shamed,  
because the LORD is refuge to the poor.

<sup>7</sup> O that deliverance for God's people would come from Zion!  
When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,  
God's disciples exult, God's people rejoice

### Opening Song    "The Foolish in Their Hearts Deny"

The foolish in their hearts deny the holy God who reigns:  
"There is no God! There is no God." this generation claims.  
Our God looks down on humankind with penetrating eye  
to see if there are any wise who seek the Lord on high.

The Lord finds all have turned aside from doing what is right,  
that all have strayed, not one does good, not one within God's sight.  
Have they no knowledge, who consume God's own as they eat bread,  
who do not call upon the Lord, who will not bow their head?

But they will all be terrified, for God is on the throne.  
Though evil ones oppress the poor, you, Lord, will help your own.  
O Lord, send us deliverance; restore us; hear our voice.  
When Zion's restoration comes, God's people will rejoice.

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### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

Lord, we live in a time of turmoil. We wonder how you view this time as you look down on the children of humankind. Do you see any of us discerning what is right and good? How easy it is to get caught up in fear, Lord. We struggle with wanting to be forgiven our debts while wanting others to pay their debt to us. We want a leg up and can have a hard time appreciating the need of others. Forgive us. Help us recognize your mercy upon us and the call to

show that mercy to others. We want the benefits of our works, but tend to dismiss the possibility that our actions have consequences we may not like. Help us see the way our actions can expose us to the torment of chaos, and to powers beyond our understanding. Let us be discerning, reflect your mercy, and dwell with you in the company of the righteous.

*(silent confession and personal reflection)*

### Assurance of Pardon

Special Music      “Impromptu in A flat Major”      Franz Schubert  
Abigail Silverberg

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer (debts/debtors)

*If you have prayer requests, please contact the church office  
[office@fpcmoscow.org](mailto:office@fpcmoscow.org), or Pastor Norman [fpcpastornorman@gmail.com](mailto:fpcpastornorman@gmail.com)*

## **HEARING GOD’S WORD FOR OUR TIME AND PLACE**

Epistle Lesson                      Romans 14:1-12

Gospel                                  Matthew 18:21-35

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon      “Mercy Given, Mercy Shared” Pastor Norman Fowler

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

Silent Reflection

## Sermon Response      “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy, like the wideness of the sea.  
There’s a kindness in God’s justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth’s sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven.  
There is no place where earth’s failings  
have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God’s Word,  
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

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## Offering

*Please mail your offerings to the church office, 405 South Van Buren St.,  
Moscow ID 83843 or give online at this link: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=982246>*

## Song of Gratitude (Doxology)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

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## Dedication of our Tithes and Offerings

## **FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

Closing Hymn      “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy powerful hand;  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more,  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through;  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, Be Thou still my strength and shield,  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side;  
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee,  
I will ever give to Thee.

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Charge and Blessing

Postlude      “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”      arr. Faye Lopez

*Thank you for joining us in worship this morning.*

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Worship Leader – Marissa Rudley  
Music Minister – Thomas Pearson  
Accompanist – Abigail Silverberg  
Video – Jeremiah Nealon, Jacob Wells  
Sound – Matthew Mikami



We are a **MATTHEW 25** church  
[pcusa.org/matthew25](http://pcusa.org/matthew25)



First Presbyterian is a  
Stephen Ministry Congregation.