

First Presbyterian Evanston

September 19, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FOCUS

Prelude

Change My Heart, O God

(Music: arr. Sun Young R. Chu)

Welcome & Announcements

EXALT

Opening Hymn

Spirit of the Living God

(Blue Hymnal #322; Words & Music: Daniel Iverson, 1935, CCLI Song #23488)

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me,

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me,

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me,

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

All: Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have trusted too much in our own wisdom and power. We have believed that we are the cause of all that is good in our lives and failed to give you thanks, recognizing that all good gifts come from you. We have feared that we might lose what we have worked so hard to gain and, in our arrogance, have failed to trust in you for our every need. Forgive us, we pray, and restore us to right relationship with you. In Christ's name we pray, and now offer our silent prayers of confession.

(Time of silent confession.)

Leader: Psalm 19 says, "the sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God... So, purify us from our sins and we will be clean; wash us and we will be whiter than snow."

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

ENCOUNTER

Children's Moment & Passing the Peace of Christ

Faith in Action – Afghan Refugee Welcome Baskets

Scripture

2 Corinthians 1:12-24

¹² Indeed, this is our boast, the testimony of our conscience: we have behaved in the world with frankness and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God—and all the more toward you. ¹³ For we write you nothing other than what you can read and also understand; I hope you will understand until the end— ¹⁴ as you have already understood us in part—that on the day of the Lord Jesus we are your boast even as you are our boast.

¹⁵ Since I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a double favor; ¹⁶ I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on to Judea. ¹⁷ Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to ordinary human standards, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? ¹⁸ As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been “Yes and No.” ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not “Yes and No”; but in him it is always “Yes.” ²⁰ For in him every one of God’s promises is a “Yes.” For this reason it is through him that we say the “Amen,” to the glory of God. ²¹ But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us, ²² by putting his seal on us and giving us his Spirit in our hearts as a first installment.

²³ But I call on God as witness against me: it was to spare you that I did not come again to Corinth. ²⁴ I do not mean to imply that we lord it over your faith; rather, we are workers with you for your joy, because you stand firm in the faith.

Sermon

Resolving misunderstandings
Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor

RESPOND

Sharing of Tithes and Offerings

Hymn of Response

Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether

*(Blue Hymnal #504; Words: Percy Dearmer, 1931, alt.; Music: Harold Friedell, 1957;
CCLI Song #3393589)*

Draw us in the Spirit's tether,
For when humbly in Your name
Two or three are met together,

You are in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Touch we now Your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather
In the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father
Break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
So now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living
Make as sacraments of You,
That by caring, helping, giving,
We may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We will serve with faith anew.

Prayers of the People & 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.

Closing Song

Yes, Lord, Yes

(Words & Music: Lynn Keesecker, 1983; CCLI Song # 12224)

I'll say yes, Lord, yes,
To Your will and to Your way.
I'll say yes, Lord, yes,
I will trust You and obey.

When the Spirit speaks to me,
With my whole heart I'll agree,
And my answer will be
Yes, Lord, yes.

Lord, I give You all the glory
For all You've given me.
You have filled my life
Until I overflow.
All I have is Yours
To use in any way You choose.
You are Lord of all,
So how can I say no?

I'll say yes, Lord, yes,
To Your will and to Your way.
I'll say yes, Lord, yes,
I will trust You and obey.
When the Spirit speaks to me,
With my whole heart I'll agree,
And my answer will be
Yes, Lord, yes.

If I never knew the fullness
Of living in Your will,
I would never know how rich
My life could be.
Lord, my willingness to serve
Is the least that You deserve
For the blessings
You have showered over me.

I'll say yes, Lord, yes,
To Your will and to Your way.

I'll say yes, Lord, yes,
I will trust You and obey.
When the Spirit speaks to me,
With my whole heart I'll agree,
And my answer will be
Yes, Lord, yes.

I'll say yes, Lord, yes,
To Your will and to Your way.
I'll say yes, Lord, yes,
I will trust You and obey.
When the Spirit speaks to me,
With my whole heart I'll agree,
And my answer will be
Yes, Lord, yes.

Benediction

Postlude

Gradual

(Edouard Batiste, 1820-1876)

Today's Worship Service Leaders

Rebecca Chu, Organ & Piano, Prelude, Hymns & Songs, Postlude

Hannah Dixon McConnell, Dir. of Worship & Music, Welcome, Chancel Choir Director

Members of the Chancel Choir, Hymns & Songs

Caryl Weinberg, Dir. of Mission, Confession & Assurance

Sally Ivaska, Faith in Action

Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor, Sermon, Sharing of Tithes, Benediction

Rev. Amanda Golbek, Minister of Children and Youth, Children's Message & Peace

Tuah Jenta, Scripture Reading

Rick Parris, Elder, Prayers of the People

Noah McLeod, Interim A/V Coordinator

Jim Teague, Communications Director, Projection

Jake Collins, A/V Volunteer, Live Stream

John Carlson, A/V Volunteer, Online Chat

Aaron Budoff, Building Team

Mike Denesha & Marilyn Haase, Prayer Companions

Tuah Jenta & Stephanie Keene, Ushers

Sonia Bodi & Paul Haase, Greeters

First Pres Announcements

Fellowship time on the front lawn, TODAY - Join us today, outside, after the service as our Deacons host our Sunday social gathering.

Prayer Gathering this Wednesday on Zoom - Our bi-monthly prayer gathering takes place on Zoom this Wednesday at 7 p.m. See the event details on our website.

Small Groups are launching now! - Check out the groups in our updated handout in this bulletin and online!

Adult Education – Sundays at 11 a.m.

- Missions is sponsoring a class & film series on racial injustice as seen through the lens of Jesus' life and teachings. Classes are in person or via Zoom on Sundays at 11 a.m. in Room 213, and on some Wednesdays at 7 p.m. (Zoom only). Learn more online.
- Pastor Henry Coates leads a class entitled "Being Christian in a Secular Age: A Refresher to the Work of Andy Root" from today through September 10 in the Parlor. The class looks at ideas from the written works of all-church retreat speaker.
- A new "Life Together" class begins September 26 in Room 103, providing newcomers and those looking into membership the opportunity to explore what First Pres is all about. Register online or at the front desk.

Youth/Children's Education – Sundays at 11 a.m.

- **6th and 7th graders** are invited to gather in the 3rd floor Youth Lounge for Sunday school with Pastor Ray and Oakley Smith.
- **Confirmation Class: 8th and 9th graders** are invited to gather in room 206 as we spend the year digging deep into our faith.
- **10th, 11th, and 12th graders** are invited to help as a volunteer teacher with the Children's Sunday school or attend one of the Adult Education classes. Contact Pastor Amanda if you want to volunteer.

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Mission Statement:

***First Presbyterian Church of Evanston
exists to know Christ and to grow in him
as we serve and make disciples in Evanston, the Chicago area,
and the world.***



This QR code will take you to a web page with links for giving and recording your attendance at today's service via the Connect Card.

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