

First Presbyterian Church

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*Celebrating our history,
we look toward our future.*



The Order of Worship

**29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
October 22, 2017 ~ Children's Sabbath**

WELCOME. We are delighted to have you with us this morning!
Following the service, please join us for fellowship
and enjoy light refreshments.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

- based on Psalm 118

One: O Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!
God's steadfast love lasts forever!

One: Let the men say, "God's steadfast love lasts forever!"

Men: God's steadfast love lasts forever!

One: Let the women say, "God's steadfast love lasts forever!"

Women: God's steadfast love lasts forever!

One: Let the children and youth say, "God's steadfast love lasts forever!"

Children & Youth: God's steadfast love lasts forever!

One: Let the whole congregation say, "God's steadfast love lasts forever!"

All: God's steadfast love lasts forever!

One: Come, let us worship our God whose sure, steady love for all of us,
young and old, will last forever.

*Hymn #39 *"Great is Thy Faithfulness"*

*Prayer of Confession:

One: Like a parent welcoming a straying child home, God is ready to embrace us and give us a new chance if we confess our sins and turn from our mistakes. In confidence of God's forgiveness, let us confess the errors of our ways:

**All: Merciful God, when millions of children suffer hunger,
we confess that we have not worked faithfully enough to feed them.**

**When one of every six children in our nation lives in poverty,
we confess that we have not labored enough with love that is deep enough or broad enough.**

**When we give up trying to solve the huge problems children face,
we confess that we have not been steadfast in our hope.**

Forgive us we pray.

**Help us to labor more faithfully, lovingly and persistently
so that one day all of the children in this world will be loved
and protected, living in peace and hope.**

One: Our prayers continue in silence.... Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

One: It's time to celebrate!

All: God loves us and embraces us and gives us a fresh start.

One: Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

*Celebration of Our Pardon

Hymn #188 "*Jesus Loves Me!*"

*Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! He who died, Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin, Let His little child come in.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

*The Peace

One: Since God has forgiven us in Jesus Christ,

All: Let us forgive one another.

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the signs of peace with one another.

*You are invited to greet those around you
with words and signs of God's reconciling peace.*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Exodus 33:12-23 and Matthew 22:15-22

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon "Leave No Child Behind"

***Hymn #488** "*I Was There to Here Your Borning Cry*"

Litany For The Children (*responsive*)

One: When Jesus took a little child in his arms, he said:
"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me,
and whoever welcomes me,
welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

**All: We would follow you, O Christ,
and welcome every child into our arms, our church and our world.**

One: Then Jesus said: "If you put a stumbling block before one of these
little ones, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung
around your neck and you were thrown into the sea."

**All: We hear you, O Christ.
Help us to take away the stumbling blocks children face each day.**

One: Even in this country of plenty, many children go to bed hungry each
night.

**All: Hunger is a stumbling block.
We will pray and work to make this land of plenty feed its children.**

One: We live in a world where many children live in fear surrounded by violence.

All: Fear and violence are stumbling blocks before these little ones. We will pray and work to become a world of security and peace.

One: On the small shoulders of children rest all our hopes for the future.

All: We promise to help them carry that burden, and to lighten their load.

One: We ask God's blessings for all those who love and work for children, in our families, neighborhoods, churches, hospitals, and schools.

All: May we and they always welcome the children with open arms. For as we do, we welcome the one who took them in his arms and protected them with his love. Amen.

Reception of Tithes & Offerings

***Offertory Response** Hymn #607 "*Doxology*"
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.

***Offertory Prayer**

The Pastoral Prayer (*responsive*)

One: ...we pray to you, O God:

All: Hear our prayer for your children.

The Lord's Prayer (*Ecumenical*)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn #707** "*Year of the Child Hymn*"

Tune: Ellacombe: C.M.D. (see Hymn #197); words by Jane Parker Huber, 1999

Help us to show your love, O Christ, to children in our care,
And reach beyond till every child is held in love and prayer.
For through neglect, abuse, and sin some children suffer pain.
They never learn to live and seek a rainbow through the rain.

When children need a helping hand, to lift or to inspire,
May we your church be present there, to give what they require.
For love our God has made us all, God's children every-where,
To live in joyful harmony, to be the best we dare.

*May we learn well what children teach, an open mind and heart,
An energizing zest for life, a willingness to start.
Grant us the grace to be child-like, approaching all our days
With eager, playful, lively joy, in loving hope-filled praise.*

*Now we will sing our praise of Christ, born many years ago,
A child who grew both wise and strong, God's love for us to show.
In stories told to people then, remembered still today,
Christ shows in every deed and word, what we should do and say.*

***Charge and Blessing**

***Response**

Hymn #547 *“Go, My Children, with My Blessing” (stanza 1)*
*Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever.
Go my children, with my blessings, you are my own.*

Postlude

THIS SERVICE is broadcast each Sunday on station KDWA 1460 AM/97.7 FM,
and is lived streamed on www.kdwa.com.

Prayer Requests/Prayer Chain: Prayer requests can be written on the blue cards found on the table at the back of the Fellowship Hall. If you would like the confidential prayer chain of FPCH to continue in prayer for your request, write that on the card. Pass the card to the pastor during the Passing of the Peace.