

First Presbyterian Church

June 15, 2025



Recruiting vs. Witnessing

200 N. Lisbon St., Carrollton, OH

(330) 627-4330

firstpresbyteriancarrollton.org



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First Presbyterian Church

June 15, 2025

10:30 A.M

PRELUDE –

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

— *Psalm 47*

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

For the LORD Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth.

He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet.

He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.

God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

The nobles of the nations assemble, along with the people of the God of Abraham,

For God has authority over the rulers of the earth. He is highly exalted!

INVOCATION (*Opening Prayer*)

O Lord, we come to you this morning rejoicing in your love that has adopted us as your children. We give you thanks that because of you we are now a part of the body of Christ, equipped by the Spirit to love and serve. It is with joy that we worship you this morning. **Amen.**

*HYMN “Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim” #477 BLUE

1 Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,

And publish abroad His wonderful name;

The name all victorious of Jesus extol, his kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

2 God ruleth on high, almighty to save; and still He is nigh--His presence we have;

The great congregation His triumph shall sing, ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

3 “Salvation to God, who sits on the throne,” Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;

The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,

Fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

4 Then let us adore, and give Him His right,

All glory and power, all wisdom and might,

All honor and blessing, with angels above,

And thanks never ceasing, and infinite love.

CALL TO CONFESSION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The proof of God’s amazing love is this:

While we were sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Trusting in God’s faithfulness and compassion, let us confess our sin before God.¹

(Time of silent personal confession)

O God, you call us to follow you.

You want us to be in a relationship with you, to be part of your family.

Yet we would rather hold on to our own ways, stubbornly creating rules for ourselves and others that we claim are your rules.

O God, forgive us for making ourselves god instead of you.

Please do not hold our self-centeredness against us.

In your mercy help us to follow you in all things so that we are grounded in your love, secure in your grace and confident of your leading.

¹ —based on Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16, NRSV

As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins from us. Through Christ we have been made free to a new life through the Spirit.
God loves us with a love that is everlasting and unceasing. Thanks be to God.

***HYMN “Speak, O Lord” INSERT**

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us all Your purposes, for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, Holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow’r that can never fail— Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we’ll stand on Your promises,
And by faith we’ll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

MESSAGE “Recruiting or Witnessing”

***HYMN “Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak” #426 BLUE**

1 Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek Thine erring children lost and lone.

2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed thy hungering ones with manna sweet.

3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things Thou dost impart;
And wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.

4 O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word, thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

5 O use me, Lord, use even me, just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;
Until Thy blessed face I see, Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH “A Brief Statement of Faith – PC(USA)”

(Exert regarding the Holy Spirit)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE –

Hymn - “Lord, Jesus Christ, Master of All”
The Lord’s Prayer

INSERT

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.

***HYMN “Freely, Freely” #436 GREEN**
1 God forgave my sin in Jesus' name. I've been born again in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you to share his love as he told me to.

R He said 'Freely, freely you have received; freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe others will know that I live.

2 All pow'r is giv'n in Jesus' name, in earth and heaven in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you to share his pow'r as he told me to. (R)

3 God gives us life in Jesus' name, he lives in us in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you to share his peace as he told me to. (R)

CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE
BENEDICTION --- Based on I Thess. 5
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, Col. 3:16-17
Teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,
Singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
With thankfulness in your hearts to God.
And whatever you do,
In word or deed,
Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
Giving thanks to God the Father through him.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE –

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Upcoming Events:
Pastor Tim’s last Sunday June 29 10:30 AM

Worship Leaders: Hannah Mergen, Jay Stoneman, and Pastor Tim Dyck

Acts 1:8
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the farthest parts of the earth."

Acts 8:26-40
Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go south on the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) So he got up and went. There he met an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship, and was returning home, sitting in his chariot, reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot."
So Philip ran up to it and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. He asked him, "Do you understand what you're reading?"
The man replied, "How in the world can I, unless someone guides me?"
So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of scripture the man was reading was this: "He was led like a sheep to slaughter, and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In humiliation justice was taken from him. Who can describe his posterity? For his life was taken away from the earth."
Then the eunuch said to Philip, "Please tell me, who is the prophet saying this about– himself or someone else?"
So Philip started speaking, and beginning with this scripture proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. Now as they were going along the road, they came to

some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, there is water! What is to stop me from being baptized?"

So he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him any more, but went on his way rejoicing.

Philip, however, found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through the area, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.