



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH EAST

September 13, 2020
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor
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Note for our online community: If you are able, prior to the start of service, please gather any kind of bread and juice or wine to use for communion. If you do not have these items, any commonly used food or drink will do.

GATHERING MUSIC: “Our God” with “Awesome God” Arranged by Richard Kingsmore

GREETING: Pastor Gregg Townsend

*** CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER**

Leader: When Moses gathered the people of Israel, God said,

Together: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”

Leader: As we gather here today, let us worship the Lord, who continues to be our God and who still brings us out of the places of our bondage.

—based on Exodus 20:1-2

Leader: Show us the way to fullness of life, Lord Jesus;

We pray that our hearts might be filled with joy, hope, and peace,

that we might respond to opportunities,

that we might be strengthened to face challenges,

that we might become the persons we are called to be,

that we might learn to respect our sisters and brothers,

that we might see the needs of others and give help,

Together: Amen.

* **OPENING PRAISE: "Way Maker"**

VERSES



1.You are here — mov - ing in — our midst. I wor - ship You, — I wor - ship You.
 2.You are here — touch - ing ev' - ry heart. I wor - ship You, — I wor - ship You.
 3.You are here — turn - ing lives a - round. I wor - ship You, — I wor - ship You.



— You are here — work - ing in — this place. I wor - ship You, — I wor - ship You.
 — You are here — heal - ing ev' - ry heart. I wor - ship You, — I wor - ship You.
 — You are here — mend - ing ev' - ry heart. I wor - ship You, — I wor - ship You.

CHORUS



Way mak - er, mi - ra - cle work - er, prom - ise keep - er, light in the dark - ness — My God, that is who You are. (You are)



Way mak - er, mi - ra - cle work - er, prom - ise keep - er, light in the dark - ness — My God, that is who You are.

BRIDGE 1



That is who You are. That is who You are. That is who You are. That is who You are.

BRIDGE 2



Ev - en when I don't see it You're work - ing Ev - en when I don't see it You're work - ing



You nev - er stop, You nev - er stop work - ing. You nev - er stop, You nev - er stop work - ing.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: O Lord, our hearts are heavy with the violence of our world,
 so much suffering through the ages,
 wars and holocausts, genocide and abuse.

We cry on behalf of our violent world:

Together: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Lord, you love and care for us as a parent;
 you came to share life with us as a brother.

But we confess we have failed to live as your children
 and instead have broken many bonds.

We cry on behalf of our violent world:

Together: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Lord, you have called us to live together in community,
to consider one another as brother and sister,
regardless of ethnicity, economic status, or popularity.

Yet we prejudge one another,
refuse to love one another,
and victimize one another.

We cry on behalf of our violent world:

Together: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Lord, giver of all life,
you fearfully and wonderfully made us
and breathed into our nostrils the breath of life.

Yet we endanger the lives of one another,
abuse the lives of young children among us,
destroy those who are defenseless,
and oppress those who are powerless.

We cry on behalf of our violent world:

Together: Lord, have mercy. Pardon us through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Our God pardons our sins and forgives our disobedience.

Our God does not stay angry forever.

Instead, our God delights to show mercy.

Our God again has compassion on us.

Our God tramples our sins underfoot
and hurls our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

Give thanks to our God, for our God is good!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: “Speak O Lord”

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 fulfill 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 power 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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 9:49-50

MESSAGE

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

* CLOSING SONG: "Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers toils and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me. His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.

* BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE

OFFLINE: OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

For our online worshippers: there are four easy ways to give your financial gift to the church:

1. Send in your financial support via the **US mail**.
2. Contact the church office (814-725-8641) to set up **direct deposit** from your bank account to the church.
3. You can also now give through **PayPal**. Just click on the link: paypal.me/fpcne. Or click on the “Shop Now” button on the church Facebook page, which will take you to the link.
4. Download the “**Give Plus† Mobile**” app from the App Store. Enter our zip code (16428) and select “First Presbyterian Church.” It takes about five minutes to set up your account and connect with the church. Then simply select the ‘+’ sign at the top to add your giving.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER AND DEVOTION

Join Pastor Gregg on Facebook LIVE every Wednesday evening at 7:00 P.M. for a time of prayer and devotion. Use the “Send Message” button on Facebook to submit a prayer request, or message Pastor Gregg.

CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE TRUSTEES ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO REMOVE SNOW from church entrances this winter. If you know of anyone, please contact Vern Hurlburt or Pastor Gregg. The pay is \$12 per hour.

THE MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE is asking for you to empty your closets of any gently used clothing for the clothing give-away this November. Coats are a special need. Please consider donating coats or purchasing some to donate and help clothe those in need.

FEEDING OUR COMMUNITY. FPCNE is responsible to provide meals on Sunday, **September 20** to help feed those in need at the overflow shelter at First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant in Erie, and we need your help. We are being asked to provide:

10 large meatloaves

10 large vegetable dishes or potato casseroles

10 large brownie sheets

Please contact Billie Blosser at (814) 449-3664 to sign up and other details. Thank you for your generosity and kindness to those who will be nourished by your contributions.

IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST, JOY OR CONCERN TO SHARE, please speak with Pastor Gregg or call or text his cell phone at (814) 460-3123. You can also email our prayer chain at jlivingston@neo.rr.com or text Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135.

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