

# The Service for the Lord's Day



**July 30, 2023**

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

529 Hendrie Boulevard  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
Phone (248) 541-0108  
*www.fpcro.org*

*Please silence all devices*

## **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP**

*For young children, the Prayground in the back of the sanctuary is open and our nursery is also available for those who prefer childcare for infants and toddlers. Following the Time with Children, families may choose for children to stay in worship with kid-friendly worship guides. Or, children may go outside (weather permitting) with our leaders for a Bible story, snack, and time on the playground.*

### **I. GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

#### **PRELUDE**

“Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word”

J.S. Bach  
Public Domain

#### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Let us offer our praise to God,

**All: for we come to learn God’s ways:**

One: O God, your word is a lamp to our feet, a light to our path;

**All: we lift our hearts to you as we seek to worship, adore, and follow you.**

#### **\*HYMN**

“Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”

**opposite page →**

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION and KYRIE ELEISON**

One: As much as we try not to stray: we do.

As much as we try to follow God’s word: we don’t.

As we continue on this journey, let us seek God’s forgiveness.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Patient and persistent God, we come, polished and presentable,  
to this comfortable room as if we knew what to expect,  
as if this were a safe and predictable place, as if we could simply observe.**

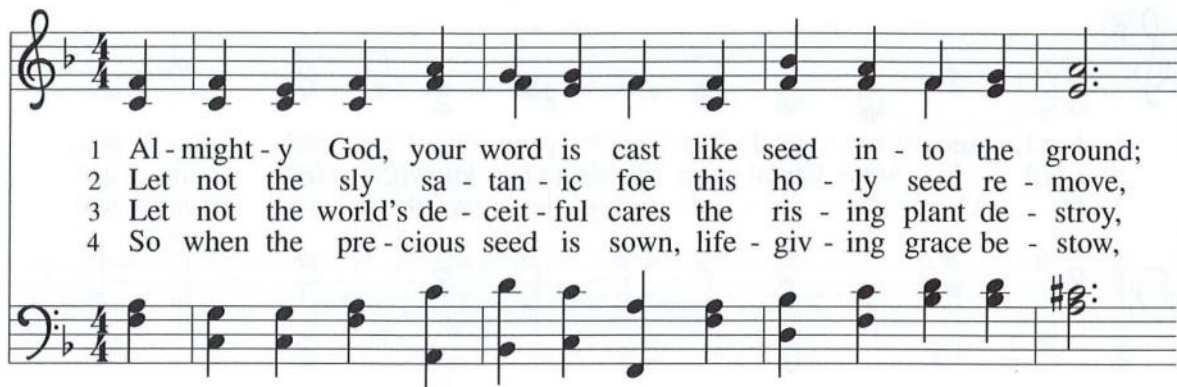
**Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations.**

**In the mystery of your love, overshadow us.**

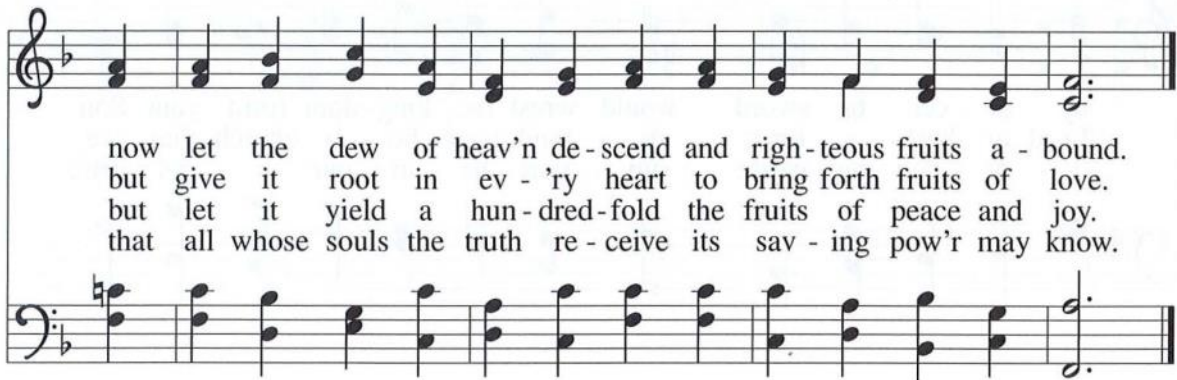
**Plant the seeds of your gospel in our hearts until we bloom and spill with your  
passion to serve in a world that is wasting.**

*[silence for individual prayer]*

# Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;  
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,  
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,  
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.  
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.  
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.  
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

One: Through Jesus Christ, we pray,

**All: Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Hear the good news! There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!  
Know you are forgiven and be at peace.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **\*GLORIA PATRI**

*Hymn #734*

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.***

## **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: As God's forgiven people, we are called to be at peace not only with God but with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## **TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

### **II. PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**All: Pour out your Spirit upon us, O God, and upon these words of Scripture, that they may reveal to us your eternal Word, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 55:10-13

*Pew Bible, OT pg. 761*

#### **PSALM**

"Psalm 119"

Sung to the Hymn-tune *Hamburg*, #261 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

***"Thy Word, O Lord, a lamp shall be to guide my feet, to light my way;  
The darkest path unto my prize by Thy rich grace is bright as day."***

Paraphrase of Psalm 119 ©1999 Michael Morgan, The Psalter for Christian Worship, Witherspoon Press

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

*Pew Bible, NT pg. 14*

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### **SERMON**

*Rev. Neta Nichols*

### **III. RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

#### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY**

"God of Grace, and God of Glory"

Paul Manz

*~Peter Gibbs, tuba*

©1974 Concordia Publishing House

#### **\*DOXOLOGY**

*Hymn #34*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen***

#### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**All: In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.  
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. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**All: 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**

## **IV. FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

### **\*HYMN**

**"A Sower Came from Ancient Hills"**

**page over**

Text: Herman Stuempile Jr. ©2006 GIA Publications; Music: John Horman ©2003 Zimbel Press

### **\*BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

**"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"**

©1964 Concordia Publishing House

*\*Indicates please stand as you are able.*

**The Liturgist today is Megan Hanks.**

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Worship services in FPCRO's sanctuary are now broadcast live and are recorded and posted on our website and social media platforms.  
When you enter the sanctuary for a service, you consent to the recording and broadcast of your voice and likeness for such purposes  
without compensation.*

# A Sower Came from Ancient Hills



1 A Sow - er came from an - cient hills and cast good  
 2 A Sow - er walked through - out the land and, ev - ery -  
 3 The Seed was bur - ied deep in death be - neath a  
 4 O Christ, you come a - mong us still, the Sow - er



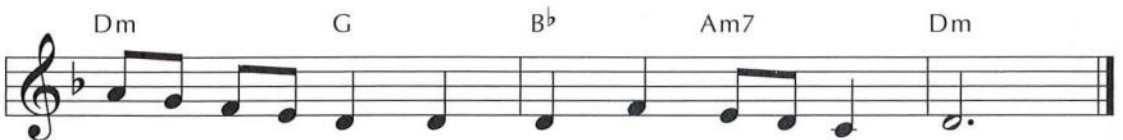
seed a - broad: his field, ten thou - sand hu - man hearts; his  
 where he trod, he sowed his life be - cause he was him -  
 blood - red sky, and deep - er still was bur - ied hope for  
 and the Seed. As once you sowed the truth of God in



seed, the word of God. And some who lis - tened would not  
 self the Seed of God. But then, a - top a bar - ren  
 those who watched him die. But then, in Jo - seph's gar - den  
 glow - ing word and deed, im - plant your Word in wait - ing



hear, and some who heard for - got. But some re - ceived in  
 hill, be - neath a dark - ening sky, they threw God's Seed on  
 fair, as dawn broke o'er the land, the Seed, from three days'  
 hearts, and let it there take hold, un - til it bears in



fer - tile soil the truth the Sow - er taught.  
 ston - y ground and left it there to die.  
 si - lent sleep, a - woke at God's com - mand!  
 fruit - ful lives a har - vest hun - dred - fold.

**Through Labor Day, the church office will be closed on Fridays**

The office and the Good Book Nook will be open on the following schedule:  
Monday, 9am-1pm; Tuesday, 9am-7pm; Wednesday & Thursday, 9am-3pm.

**PROGRAM STAFF**

Rev. Emma Nickel, Pastor, ext. 206, enickel@fpcro.org

Rev. Neeta Nichols, Parish Associate, nnichols@fpcro.org

Joseph Jackson, Director of Music Ministries and Organist, ext. 218, jjackson@fpcro.org

Kent Wattleworth, Chancel Choir Director, ext. 222, kwattleworth@fpcro.org

Audrey Frieberg, Sunburst Singers Director, afrieberg@fpcro.org

Joelle Jarrait, Director of Christian Education, ext. 204, jjarrait@fpcro.org

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Kari Peruski, Church Administrator, ext. 203, kperuski@fpcro.org

Sally Gilreath, Administrative Assistant, ext. 200, sgilreath@fpcro.org

Todd Crawford, Evening Reception, ext. 200, tcrawford@fpcro.org

Alan Glasel, Facility Manager, ext. 201, aglasel@fpcro.org

Julia Carroll, Nursery Care Worker

**SOLOISTS**

Bryan Clinthorne, *baritone*; Brady DeVecchio, *tenor*; Olivia Donnel, *soprano*; Audrey Frieberg, *soprano*



*Our church is a Stephen Ministry church. Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers who are trained to provide high-quality confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Contact the pastor if you are in need.*

Today's **CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given by Sandra Olah in loving memory of her husband, Dan Olah.

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### **End of Fiscal Year Gifts**

As the fiscal year draws to a close, we want to thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the ministry of FPCRO. Your gifts throughout the year make all the ministries at FPCRO possible!

We are so grateful for your pledges and gifts to God through the church. Our church's fiscal year ends on July 31. We encourage you, as you are able, to complete your current year's pledge by that date. To be counted toward this budget year, **all gifts need to be received in the church office or postmarked by July 31**. New pledges for the 2023-2024 fiscal year take effect on August 1. Thank you for your faithful generosity!

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### **School Supplies**

During the month of **August**, we'll collect school supplies for Oakland Elementary school. Look for sales and pick up a few items when you see them. Boxes will be out in the church to receive donations. Teacher requested items include: crayons, colored pencils, markers, glue sticks, composition notebooks, primary journals (composition notebook, but with a spot to draw a picture for K-2 classes), plastic folders with prongs, colored dry erase markers, pencils (pre-sharpened), Play-Doh, bingo daubers, socks (for feet and white board erasers)

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### **Summer Movie Night: "Finding Nemo"**

On **Friday, August 11 at 8 pm** "Finding Nemo" will be screened on the Hendrie Lawn. Bring a lawn chair and a friend. We'll bring the popcorn!

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### **Flower Dedications**

Our FPCRO **2023-24 Flower Dedication Chart** is up and ready for your requests. Please add your name in the slot of your choice to remember a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or honor someone with flowers this year. The chart is in the hallway across from our reception desk. You may fill out a card immediately or closer to your dedication date. Dedications are \$45. Please see Chris Klein or call 248-990-8586 if you have questions. Thank you very much.

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**Online Giving:** Giving online is a fast and easy way to give at FPCRO. Through our PayPal page you may give a one-time gift, or you may set up recurring gifts using a debit/credit card, or your PayPal account. Thank you!

