



Fairmont Presbyterian Church
Kettering, Ohio
November 13, 2022

FAIRMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Service for the Worship of God

Fairmont Presbyterian Church nurtures and guides people to live inspired lives.

November 13, 2022

10:30am

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Brian Maguire

Prelude

Thy Word

Grant and Smith

Call to Worship (Psalm 19)

Leader: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

People: the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

Leader: the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;

People: the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

Leader: the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever;

People: the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

Leader: Come let us behold the Word of our Lord; let us worship God.

Hymn 458

Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet

Thy Word

Refrain:

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid,
and I think I've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear
as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end. (Refrain)

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Rev. Kelley Shin

God of truth, in your Word you bring freedom and light to a dark world. We confess that we have ignored your message, avoided your claims on our lives, and hid from your truth. We hear your Great Story but fail to live into it. We are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. Help us to hear your Word as you read our lives in it. Inspire us by your Word and change us so that we may receive all you have declared in Christ Jesus our Lord...(time for silent prayer)...Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***Congregational Response #581**

Glory Be to the Father

Gloria Patri

*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, amen.*

Passing of Christ's Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Time with Our Children

Loralei Harding

Anthem

Until I Found the Lord
Chancel Choir

Andre J. Thoma

Prayer for Illumination

Leader: Blessed are you Eternal One our God, sovereign of the world.

People: **In ancient days you spoke and created your people.**

Leader: Today let your Word and words come alive in us.

People: **So that we can live into your story with meaning, purpose, and hope.**

Leader: We ask this in the name of Jesus, our teacher. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

In The Meantime...

Rev. Brian Maguire

Hymn 450

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Affirmation of Faith (in unison)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Doxology

*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.*

Pastoral Prayer (concluding with 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.

Anthem

Lord my God in Thee I Trust
Chancel Choir

D. Paetkau

Invitation and Prayer of Discipleship

We will not be passing the offering plates to collect tithes and offerings today. There is a basket by each

exit door for the collection of tithes and offerings. (*Loose coins go to Children and Youth Ministries.*)

Hymn 463

How Firm a Foundation

Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

3 "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

4 "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

5 "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

Time for Personal Commitment

Statements of intended giving for 2023 have been mailed to you and are available in the pew racks. After prayer and reflection, you are invited to complete the cards and bring them to the basket at the front of the church when you are ready during the closing hymn.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Wayne Wold

(Music and words are used with permission of CCLI License #930368.)

Within the Fellowship

The 10:30 service flowers are given in honor and memory of our dear moms, Gerry and Izzy. We love you so much and miss you every day. Brench and Julie

For prayer concerns or if you would like to be part of the Email Prayer Chain Team, please contact:
Rev. Kelley Shin at kshin@fairmontchurch.org.

For emergencies, contact Rev. Brian Maguire at (937) 269-2864 or Rev. Kelley Shin at (937) 751-0752.

Announcements

Special Stewardship Sunday Reception

Join us in the Fellowship Hall following both services of worship for a special reception of Quiche and Muffins! Coffee and tea, too! All are welcome!

The Vintage Room (choir room) and The Christmas & Jewelry Room (chapel) will have half off items from the Art, Antique, & Craft Show available to purchase **after** each worship service.

Fairmont Fall Hike: Join Pastor Kelley for a Fairmont Fall Hike **today** Sunday, November 13th, at 2:00 p.m. Let's meet at Sweet Arrow Reserve at 2:00 p.m. for a 2 or 3-mile hike. Sweet Arrow Reserve, 789 Little Sugarcreek Road, Sugarcreek Township, OH 45440. We will hike an easy mile for families and then add another 2 miles for those who want to hike a moderate hike.

Connections: Eyes on the Prize, America's Civil Rights Movement

Come on Zoom at 7:00 on Wednesday nights in November as we learn more about the history of the civil rights movement and the church's role in it as we together watch the Emmy and Peabody award winning documentary *Eyes on the Prize, America's Civil Rights Movement*. After each one-hour episode we will discuss its significance and meaning for our society today.

Wednesday, November 16 Ain't Afraid of You Jails 1961-62

Wednesday, November 23 NO CONNECTIONS HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Wednesday, November 30 No Easy Walk 1961-63

Wednesdays, 7:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82945327813>

Meeting ID: 829 4532 7813

The Fairmont Men's Group will meet on Wednesday, November 16th, at 11:30 am, at MCL Cafeteria. All the men of the church are invited and encouraged to bring a friend.

Bible Study on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom we will be prayerfully considering the text for the following Sunday morning. You do not need any preparations and everyone is welcome. This week we will be reflecting on Daniel 12. You are invited.

Thursdays, 7:00pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82002536057>

Meeting ID: 820 0253 6057

Theology on Tap will meet in person at The Brewery at Carillon Park at 5:00 p.m. this Friday, November 18th. We will be on the back patio if the weather is nice, and inside if the weather is not cooperative. Hope to see you there!

Fairmont Family Night: A Special Thanksgiving Meal: Join us for our November *Fairmont Family Night* this Friday, November 18th at 6:00 p.m. Fairmont children, youth, and their families will be meeting **once-a-month** for a fun

evening of dinner, games, and fellowship. For questions, contact Lorelei Harding or Pastor Kelley.

Cookie Walk: The annual Women of Fairmont Cookie Walk is fast approaching on December 11th, following the single service. Be sure to save the date! Everyone is invited to bake and donate cookies and candy for the Cookie Walk. Please sign up on the Fellowship Pad or on the sign-up sheet posted in the Fellowship Hall if you can contribute homemade items. You may also email your intent to donate cookies to Sara Grillot. The email address is sjgrillot@sbcglobal.net, or you may text to 937-776-2201. Cookies and candies may be delivered to the Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 9th between 9:00am-3:00pm or Saturday, December 10th between 9:00am-11:00am. Then join us on December 11th to purchase cookies for the benefit of the Women of Fairmont mission projects. We look forward to seeing you at this festive and fun Christmas gathering!

Calling All Explorers! You are invited to a winter-spring series of faith-exploratory gatherings, centered on significant books made more-so by reading/listening to them *in faith community*. The first one will be *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us* by Cole Arthur Riley (Convergent Books, 2022). We will meet in circle-fashion, on day/time decided by all those who express interest. All human beings, 15+ years, are welcome. In-person or Zoom yet to be determined. Future titles to be discerned within areas of spirituality, liberation, faith, wisdom. If interested, contact Lisa M Hess at lmhess@united.edu and/or 937-269-3024, leaving your email address (if texting or leaving a message). First gathering in January 2023!

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Brian's Nerdy Bible Notes

There is a gap in the Biblical narrative, a fuzzy period of surprising length between the Testaments. The story of ancient Judah culminates in most people's imaginations in the exile to Babylon around 597 BC. After that, not a lot seems to happen for the next six centuries until the birth of Jesus. But gaps in our memory do not reflect the lived experience of the Jewish people. In those six centuries, a lot happened.

In 538 BC, the Babylonian Empire was overthrown by an upstart coalition of Medes and Chaldeans. Under the leadership of Cyrus I (aka "the Great"), this new Persian Empire conquered not only the former territories of the Babylonian Empire, but most of the ancient Near East. Unlike the Babylonians, the Persians were more concerned with their subject populations paying their taxes on time and less concerned about imposing religious and cultural uniformity. The exiles from Judah and their descendants were permitted to return home. Some of the Jews who had built lives for themselves in what is now Iraq remained where they constituted a thriving community until 1948. Meanwhile, the returnees started rebuilding Israel and the shattered city of Jerusalem as a province of the Persian Empire. Cyrus the Great is explicitly identified as the first "Messiah" of the Jewish people (Isaiah 45:1).

The city of Jerusalem in the fifth century BC remained small and underpopulated. An ambitious urban redevelopment program under the Persian governor Nehemiah and the priest Ezra saw the rebuilding of a much diminished second temple and a new protective wall around the city. But the old monarchy, the house of David, was never reestablished as Judah simply became the Persian province of the Jews, Jehudah, which would later be known as Judea.

During these less dramatic centuries of Jewish history, Judaism began to transform. Jews began living in large numbers outside the land of Israel for the first time. Indeed, alternative temples were constructed to serve these diaspora Jews in Egypt. Hebrew became a purely religious language as the people switched to common language of the Persian Empire, Aramaic. New ways of worshipping apart from the temple developed in prayer houses and proto-synagogues. And Jews began to interact culturally with a new and dynamic culture of ancient Greece. Ezra and Nehemiah were contemporaries of Socrates and Sophocles in Athens. All these changes led to the production of new sacred literature including the books of Haggai, Second and Third Isaiah, Zechariah, I and II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, and Daniel that all began to reconceive of God's work not only through but beyond Israel.

Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet 458

Refrain

Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my
 path. Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a
 light un-to my path. *Fine* When I feel a-fraid, and I
 think I've lost my way, still you're there right be-side me.
 Noth-ing will I fear as long as you are near.
 Please be near me to the end.

The refrain of this 20th-century song is a quotation of Psalm 119:105 in the King James Version. That longest of all psalms celebrates the gift of God's law by accumulating many synonyms for it. In Christian practice, this verse has been used to give thanks for all Scripture.

TEXT: Amy Grant, 1984

MUSIC: Michael W. Smith, 1984; arr. John Sharber

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THY WORD

Irregular

THE WORD

450

Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) E^b (G) A^b (D/F[#]) E^b/G (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b




1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) B^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (A) B^b



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) A^b (D) E^b (F[#]m7) Gm7 (G) A^b (A) B^b



thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) Cm (D/F[#]) E^b/G (G) A^b (D) E^b



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav - en - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

463 How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

