

Prayers of the People

PRAYER FOR MISSIONS

Minute for Mission: Christian Vocation

Maria Fearing was born into slavery in 1838 on a plantation in Gainesville, Alabama, the daughter of a house slave. On hearing her owner tell Bible stories to her own children and speak of the children of Africa who had never heard of Jesus, Maria declared: "I will go to Africa some day if I can."

That day came nearly a half century later. When she was freed from slavery in 1865, at the age of twenty-seven, she could neither read nor write. However, she found her way to Talledega College, where she completed the ninth grade, then taught in a school nearby. Years later she returned to supervise boarding students. There she met William Sheppard, who had co-founded the American Presbyterian Congo Mission. He had come to Talledega to recruit other African Americans to join him in that mission. At the age of fifty-six, Maria went forward to volunteer. When the church committee rebuffed her application, she sold her little house, collected some money from friends, and went back to the committee, offering to pay her own fare and support herself on the field if she were allowed to travel with Sheppard's party. Reluctantly, the committee agreed.

Maria's house in Congo became a haven for young girls in need: orphaned, sickly, abused, enslaved. Eventually her girls gave her the title mama wa mputu, "mother from far away." For twenty years, Maria continued her work as mother and evangelist, nurturing her girls through warfare and other upheavals, teaching them to be women of faith, grace, stature, and intelligence. Of the first seven converts of the American Presbyterian Congo Mission, three were girls from Maria's house.

—Darius Leander Swann, president, Maria Fearing Fund for African and African American Partnership in Mission, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia

PRAYER

Almighty God, who makes a way out of no way, thank you for the life of your servant, Maria Fearing. Grant to all of us the courage and determination to do your will in spite of circumstances that seem to make it impossible. Amen.

Vision Statement

In 2015, we envision First Presbyterian Church as a Christ-centered community, serving the spiritual needs of an intergenerational congregation, welcoming all. We will integrate new and creative ways to worship and serve Christ. We will be aware of and responsive to the needs of our neighbors, near and far. Through worship, education, fellowship, and outreach, we will develop and sustain disciples for Christ.

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Service for the Lord's Day

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Broadcast live on 1330 AM KKPZ radio
and over the Internet at www.firstpresportland.org

Please turn off or silence your cell phone.

September 5, 2010 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 11:00 a.m.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE "Three Antiphons" Marcel Dupré

INTROIT "Walk Softly" Bob Chilcott

When we assemble here to worship God,
To sing His praises and to hear His word
We will walk softly.

With purity of heart; and with clean hands,
Our souls are free from Satan's bands
We will walk softly.

While we are passing through the sacred door,
Into the fold where Christ has gone before,
We will walk softly.

We'll worship and bow down we will rejoice
And when we hear the Shepherd's gentle voice
We will walk softly.

(Chancel Choir Section Leaders)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God is like a potter who shapes and forms our lives.

We have been called to be faithful to God's intention.

God seeks for us to be vessels of compassion and service.

We have been given multiple opportunities to witness to God's love.

Come, let us worship the Creator who has given us life.

Let us send our praises to God who knows us and loves us. AMEN.

*PRAYER FOR THE DAY *(Unison)*

Lord Jesus, our light and life, make us ready to turn away from everything else that claims our allegiance, and follow you as our only Savior. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

◆
*HYMN NO. 285 "God, You Spin the Whirling Planets" AUSTRIAN HYMN

Large print bulletins and assisted hearing devices are available. Ask an usher.

***INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Unison)*

O God, You have given us a firm foundation in Jesus Christ, yet we have chosen to build in other places. The things we have made are weak and unstable. The works of our hands crumble around us, and we realize that our best efforts are not good enough because sin is real and we are powerless before it. Forgive us for thinking we know best. Heal our pride and mend our broken values. Create within us hearts that seek your purposes, so that what we build may give you glory. Amen.
A moment is kept for individual reflection.

***KYRIE**

***DECLARATION OF PARDON (JOHN 3:16-17)**

Hear the great, good news: “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new!
Thanks be to God!



***RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING**

HAMBURG

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

***THE PEACE**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, we also ought to forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

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

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Please sign and pass the Friendship Folder and return the folder back down the pew so that you may know those sitting with you.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 Pew Bible, page 577

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“Pilgrim’s Hymn”

Stephen Paulus

Even before we call on Your name
To ask You, O God,
When we seek for the words to glorify You,
You hear our prayer;
Unceasing love, O unceasing love,
Surpassing all we know.
Glory to the Father and to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit.

Even with darkness sealing us in,
We breathe Your name,
And through all the days that follow so fast,
We trust in You;
Endless Your grace, O endless Your grace,
Beyond all mortal dream.

Both now and for ever, and unto ages and ages,
Amen.

(Chancel Choir Section Leaders)

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 18:1-11 Pew Bible, page 720

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Shaped by the Potter’s Hands”

Rev. Robin R. Garvin

***HYMN No. 322**

“Spirit of the Living God”

LIVING GOD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** - *from The Study Catechism*

What do you believe when you say that God is “Maker of heaven and earth”?
First, that God called heaven and earth, with all that is in them, into being out of nothing. Second, that God rules and supports the creation in perfect wisdom, according to God’s eternal purpose.

Did God need to make the world?

No. God would still be God even if heaven and earth had never been made.

Why, then, did God create the world?

God’s creation of the world was an act of grace. God granted existence to the world simply in order to bless it. God created the world to reveal God’s glory, to share the love and freedom at the heart of God’s being, and to give us eternal life in fellowship with God.

THE OFFERING

“Fantasia on Ton-y-Botel”

Richard Purvis

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDRED

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF DEDICATION AND INTERCESSION**

***THE LORD’S PRAYER** *(Unison)*

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.

SENDING

***HYMN No. 294**

“Wherever I May Wander”

NEW ENGLAND

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

“A Choral Amen”

John Rutter

(Chancel Choir Section Leaders)

***POSTLUDE**

“Magnificat primi toni – Fugue XII”

Johann Pachelbell

*Jon Stuber: Organist/Choirmaster
Chancel Choir Section Leaders: Anita Lundgren, Emily Kinkley,
Georgina Philippson, Kristen Buhler, Cahen Taylor, Jeff Witt,
Austin Daniel, Ben Kinkley*

*Please stand if you are able.

◆ Ushers may seat latecomers.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Bob Paul, Senior Pastor
Robin Garvin, Stated Supply Associate Pastor
Jon Stuber, Organist/Choirmaster
Fran Elton, Pastoral Fellow
Jon Stuber, Organist/Choirmaster
Diane Ponder, Lay Reader
Steve Anderson, Usher Captain

J. Spencer Parks, Associate Pastor, is at Menucha this morning.

Welcome back! We are delighted to have Organist/Choirmaster Jon Stuber back after his renewal leave in June and July, and August vacation. Our prayers have been that you would enjoy this well-deserved opportunity to refresh and renew the sources of your creativity and joy. We are grateful for your gifts and service to this church.

The arrangement of flowers in the sanctuary this morning is given in loving memory of Norbert and Lillian Leupold by Terry and Elizabeth Clifford.