



## Sunday, August 20, 2023 ~ 12th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) -- Have you **checked in** for worship today?

\*please stand as you are able

### Welcome and Work of God's People

Rev. Wes Allen

### Music in Preparation for Worship

Diane Goldsmith, Piano

*Praeludium from Partita No. 1*

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Prelude No. 1 in C from Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 1*

Johann Sebastian Bach

### \*Responsive Call to Worship

Rev. Allen

Gathered in this sacred place, let us lift our hearts in worship.

**We come before the Lord with gratitude and praise.**

For in His presence, we find joy and renewal.

**Our souls thirst for the living God, and we are here to be filled.**

Let our voices rise like incense, our songs like offerings of love.

**We join in unity, a community bound by faith and hope.**

Lift your eyes to the One who formed the heavens and the earth.

**Our focus is on the Almighty, the source of our strength and purpose.**

As we enter this time of worship, may our spirits be open to His leading.

**Lord, guide us, mold us, and draw us closer to Your heart. Let the praises of our lips and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer. Amen.**

### \*Hymn No. 71

Diane Goldsmith

***O Bless The Lord, My Soul!***

\*\*\*Seating interlude

## \*Prayer of Adoration

Elder Leonard Fitts

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## Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Elder Fitts

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**Lord, we confess that at times, like Ephraim, we have surrounded ourselves with lies and deceit. We have pursued the empty winds of worldly success, allowing falsehood to multiply within us. We acknowledge that we have too often relied on our own strength and understanding, neglecting to trust in your wisdom.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for the times when we have loved material gain more than You. We recognize that our hearts have been with false balances, seeking our own interest instead of pursuing justice and righteousness. Lord, create in us clean hearts that are steadfast in love and justice. May our lives be places of worship, pure and sincere, reflecting your grace and mercy to the world around us. Hear us now, Lord, as we come before you in this time of silence and reflecting on the ways in which we have strayed from your will ....**

*Silent prayer for personal confession*

## Assurance of Pardon

Elder Fitts

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ, scripture reminds us time and time again that Christ did not come into the world to condemn the world. Christ came that the world may be saved. Hear the good news! Believe the good news!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah, amen!**

## \*Gloria Patri No. 805

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## Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer ('debts')

Rev. Allen

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## Way of the Week #16: Give Cheerfully

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**16. GIVE CHEERFULLY.** Rejoice, you get to give! Think of giving as a privilege rather than an obligation, a joy instead of a burden. As you consider all that's been entrusted to you – time, abilities and money – ask, "How is God calling me to share what I've been given?"

**Ideas for Action:** Consider making a special financial gift this week to the church or one of our mission partners. What else, besides money, can you give this week? How about your time or your forgiveness?

## Offertory

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*Thank you for your faithfulness and for remembering FPC Moorestown with your giving. Your offerings allow us to sustain our church programs. Take advantage of simple, secure [automatic withdrawal](#) or donate easily from your phone via the Church Center app. If you're watching via live stream, you can take part and give online right now as well! When mailing your offerings, please send to **P.O. Box 868**, Moorestown, NJ 08057.*

## Offertory Music

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### **Six Studies in English Folk-Song, Nos. 1 and 3**

Diane Goldsmith, Piano and Ivan Woods, Bass Clarinet

Ralph Vaughan Williams

## \*Doxology No. 809

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## Sermon

Rev. Wes Allen

### *"The Path You Follow"*

**Scripture:** Hosea 11:12-12:14 (Pew Bible page 843 OT)

**Sermon Series:** God's Huge Heart

## \*Affirmation of Faith (from *Our World Belongs to God*)

Rev. Allen

We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living. As covenant partners, set free for joyful obedience, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in the world. With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we expect the Day of the Lord. We are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness will fill the earth when Christ appears. Come, Lord Jesus. Our world belongs to you.

## \*Hymn No. 476

Diane Goldsmith

### *Not What These Hands Have Done*

## Music in Preparation for Service

Diane Goldsmith, Piano

### *Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum*

Claude Debussy

*From Sonata in C, K. 330*, Allegro moderato

Wolfgang A. Mozart

## Benediction and Going Forth; [Ways Video](#) (Dr. Lucy Rorke-Adams)

Rev. Allen

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## 9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

**Guest Musicians:** Diane Goldsmith and Ivan Woods; **Beadle:** Elder Leonard Fitts; **Audio Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Live Stream Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Flower Arrangers:** Debbie Heller and Lisa Heisler; **Deacon 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Flower Arranger:** Vicki Terry; **Deacon 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Flower Deliverers:** Amy Coombe and Susan Kenuk; **Ushers:** Paul Lewis, Joe Scheideler, Leonard Fitts; **Trustee Greeter:** Mike Welch; **Check-In Volunteer:** Deacon Bobbi Voglesong; **Nursery Caregiver:** Amy Coombe; **Hospitality:** Chelsea Margerum (volunteers needed for this ministry)

**Worship flowers** are given to the glory of God.

WE WILL KICK OFF our 2023-24 program year on **Sunday, September 10** with *Welcome Back Sunday*, a **9:30 a.m.** COMBINED blended worship in the sanctuary. Reconnect with friends from the summer and look forward to the coming year, as we worship together as one church family.



After the service, we'll have a Covered Dish Church Picnic Brunch. We can enjoy a delicious brunch spread, visit in the comfort of Fellowship Hall, and enjoy lively conversation.

**Please bring to share: Last Name A-J: Casserole or Egg Dish; Last Name K-P: Side Dish or Salad; Last Name Q-S: Bread or Rolls; Last Name T-Z: Dessert.**

## Work of God's People (See *Connections*, eblast, website and our app for details)

- **Disaster Relief** -- Wildfires have ravaged the Hawaiian islands of Maui and Hawaii. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is there. To donate, visit <https://pda.pcusa.org> (Note: donations will not be reflected on your church financial statement; you will receive a receipt from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.)
- **Summer Reminders:** Summer Worship ends Sept. 3 (9:00 a.m. Traditional and 10:30 a.m. Contemporary). Adult Spiritual Formation offers a drop-in series 10:00-10:45 am in the Lounge.
- **Malawi Trekkers Celebration** -- Come hear Stuart Spencer and Jim Dugan share about the 10-day bike trek through Africa by the Malawi Trekkers. Their group cycled over 200 miles through Malawi visiting UrbanPromise mission sites. **Wed. Aug. 30 at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall, [also available via Zoom](#).**
- **RETREAT:** Pastor Spencer leads a **Fall Prayer Retreat** on Centering Prayer October 17-20 at Holy Cross Monastery using our study book, *Centering Prayer: Sitting Quietly in God's Presence Can Change Your Life*. Cost: \$305 with study book; \$290 without the book (purchase on your own). [Online registration now OPEN](#) on our event page or website, or pick up a brochure at church to mail in. Spaces are limited; RSVP due by Sunday, Sept. 10.
- **Have you tried ALPHA?** Are you newer to church? ALPHA is an 11-week course that creates a space where people are excited to bring their friends for a conversation about faith, life and God. Each week's talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. A new series of Wednesday evening sessions begins **Wednesday, Sept. 6**. [Sign up online](#) or right through the Church Center app (Sign Ups).
- Children's Sunday School begins **Sunday, Sept. 17**. NOTE new time of 10:15-11:15 am. Third graders will receive their Bibles that day for **Bible Sunday**. To sign up your third grader to receive their Bible, [see our event page](#), sign up through the Church Center app or contact Holly Ascitutto at [hascitutto@fpcmoorestown.org](mailto:hascitutto@fpcmoorestown.org). Please indicate how you wish their name to appear in their Bible and which service you will be attending.
- **Adult Spiritual Formation Begins with [Sermon on the Mount Study](#) (Sept. 17-Nov. 19)** -- For many, the Sermon on the Mount is the centerpiece of Jesus' teachings. In his sermon, as recorded by Matthew in chapters 5-7 of his Gospel, Jesus reveals the principles of what true discipleship looks like. If you desire to enhance your knowledge of scripture and grow closer to the Lord, you are invited to join Lissa Herman and Lorenzo Eagles as they lead this Fall study Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall (10:15-11:15 am). [Please register to attend via Church Center](#) or by visiting the [church website](#). There are no books required and you are guaranteed to learn a lot, even if you can only attend a few sessions. *No class on Oct. 15 (Consecration Sunday) or Oct. 29 (Church Has Left the Building)*.
- **Monday, September 11:** Service of Remembrance to honor the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attack on our country. Cemetery Cross, 6:30 pm, Wes Allen leads. Please bring a chair if you wish.
- **Happy Birthday!** On September 12<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the 135th anniversary of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown, founded in 1888. Watch your mail for ways to contribute to the September 12 Fund.
- **Please submit 2023-24 event dates** to the church office for the calendar and summer staff planning.