

June 21, 2026 + 10:30 A.M.
Fifth Sunday of Pentecost/Father's Day

We Join in Worship

Liturgist: Robbie Casiano

If you need extra space for a wheelchair or walker, or if you have young children with you, please feel free to make use of our Prayground, the extra space across the aisle from the sound booth.

PRELUDE *In the Garden* C. Austin Miles

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from *Psalms* 86)

Leader: Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer us, for we are in need. Preserve our lives, for we are devoted to you; save your servants who trust in you. You are our God; be gracious to us, O LORD, for to you do we cry all day long.

ALL: Gladden the souls of your servants, for to you, O LORD, we lift up our souls. For you, O LORD, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

Leader: Give ear, O LORD, to our prayer; listen to our cry of supplication. In the day of our trouble we call on you, for you will answer us. There is none like you among the gods, O LORD, nor are there any works like yours.

ALL: Gladden the souls of your servants, for to you, O LORD, we lift up our souls. For you, O LORD, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

Leader: All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O LORD, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. Teach us your way, O LORD, that we may walk in your truth; give us undivided hearts to revere your name.

ALL: Gladden the souls of your servants, for to you, O LORD, we lift up our souls. For you, O LORD, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you. We worship you, O LORD!

***OPENING HYMN:** "Morning Has Broken" (469)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

Leader: In his letter to the Romans, Paul writes, "What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it?" Together let us confess how we have continued in sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God our Father, we confess our sins unto you, trusting in your call upon our lives. We confess that we take you for granted rather than offer you gratitude. You created everything in existence, and we behave as though we are somehow entitled to it. We consume without care. We produce without protecting the environment. We destroy with abandon. We act as though everything is ours rather than yours. Forgive us for taking you and your world for granted. Inspire us to offer our gratitude to you as our Father by being better stewards. In the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, we pray. Amen.

KYRIE: Glory to God, No. 579 (unison)

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news! The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

ALL: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!**

GLORIA PATRI (577)

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

STATEMENT OF FAITH: (Adapted from *The Larger Westminster Catechism*)

Adoption is an act of the free grace of God, in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, whereby all those that are justified are received into the number of his children, have his name put upon them, the Spirit of his Son given to them, are under his Fatherly care and dispensations, admitted to all the liberties and privileges of the children of God, made heirs of all the promises, and fellow heirs with Christ in glory.

BLESSING OF OUR GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS

Ruling Elder: Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. (*1 Corinthians* 12:4–7, 26–27)

ALL: **In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.** (*A Brief Statement of Faith*)

Ruling Elder: The great ends of the Church are: the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. (*Book of Order, F-1.0304*) The General Assembly is the council of the whole church and it is representative of the unity of the synods, presbyteries, sessions, and congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The General Assembly constitutes the bond of union, community, and mission among all its congregations and councils, to the end that the whole church becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness. (*Book of Order, G-3.0501*).

LAYING OF HANDS WITH PRAYER

ALL: **Dear God, bless Heather and Tyler as they go to Milwaukee to do the work of the Church. Inspire them to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen!**

We Hear God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON:	<i>Genesis 21:1-8</i>
EPISTLE LESSON:	<i>Romans 6:1-11</i>
GOSPEL LESSON:	<i>Matthew 10:16-20, 26-32</i>
SERMON:	The Spirit of Your Father
SECOND HYMN	"This Is My Father's World" (293)

We Respond in Faith

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.

OFFERING INVITATION:

Leader: God is a good, good Father to all of us. Let us give our tithes and offerings so that we can do our part to share our Father's love with the world. If you are here in person, please place your offering in the plate as it is passed. If you are worshiping from home, please mail in your checks or use our online giving option on the website. Now let us practice stewardship as we listen to today's offertory.

OFFERTORY *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known;
Creator, Word, and Spirit one;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Unison)

God our Father, we dedicate these gifts to you as your children who love you. Give us Wisdom to be good stewards of your blessings as we seek to serve our siblings. In the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, we pray. Amen.

We Go Into the World

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (276)

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *The Trees of the Field*

POSTLUDE *He Touched Me*

William J. Gaither

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* So that we can properly greet people who come to the building during Sunday morning worship, Door A will be the only unlocked external door during the worship service.

PEEK AT THE WEEK:

SUNDAY 6/21: FATHER'S DAY
 Outdoor Worship – 10:30 AM
 Fellowship Hosts: Hospitality

MONDAY 6/22: GA – 6:30 PM
 Al-Anon – 7:00 PM

TUESDAY 6/23: Prayer Shawl – 1:00 PM
 Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM
 AA – 7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY 6/24: Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM
 GA – 7:00 PM

SATURDAY 6/27: Sackurday – 12:00 PM
 AA – 6:30 PM

SUNDAY 6/28: Salad Sale

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MARK YOUR CALENDAR: SALAD SALE JUNE 28TH** Be prepared to support our general fund and get a delicious, nutritious, and refreshing lunch!
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** The Ministry of Mission is looking for volunteers to help with Mission's Annual 4th of July Parking Lot Fundraiser. The event begins on Wednesday, July 1st and continues through Sunday, July 5th. A sign-up sheet will be available each Sunday or you can contact Tracy Oprea @ (219) 616-7181. This fundraiser is Mission's major fundraiser for the year, and the event cannot be successful without your help. The Ministry of Mission greatly appreciates your support. Blessings.
- **MINISTRY OF MISSION'S 2026 FLOWER VOUCHER SALE** The Ministry of Mission's Annual Zandstra Flower Voucher Fundraiser is almost done! The vouchers are \$17.00 each, and as you know they are worth \$17.00 at Zandstra's Greenhouse. Talk to a member of Mission if interested!
- **THE BIBLE IN TODAY'S WORLD AND BYOB ARE ON SUMMER BREAK** Keep an eye out for these opportunities in the Fall!
- **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!** If you don't already follow us on Facebook and Instagram, please start doing so @firstpchighland on both Facebook and Instagram.
- **INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF FPCH?** You are always welcome here, whether a member or not! If you are interested in joining as a member, though, we would love to have you! Please talk to Pastor Tyler if you would like to learn more.

Opportunities to serve as the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ:

- **BLESSING BOX** Please continue to place items in the Blessing Box and take items if you are a person in need! Items most commonly donated: Canned goods with pull tabs, socks, toilet paper, non-perishable foods, small snacks, toiletries, baby wipes and diapers. Please check expiration dates!
- **HELP STOCK OUR PANTRY!** Please pick up a beautifully decorated grocery bag in the narthex and fill it to help the church's food pantry.

Prayer List

Anthony	Robin
Brady Vanes	Eunice
George Griner	Betsy
Guy Hendricks	David
Bill and Anettia Holmes	Joe & Kathy
David Markley	Breanne Polan
David Kingen	Tammy
Diana and Ray Mendoza	Alex
Janet Orem	Ben
Cindy Waltz and Sister	Mike Kelly
Yvonne Suroviak	Sue Heth
Georgette and Garry Sknerski	Ron Toren
Jakob Holden	Tony
Denise Matthys	Mildred
Jan Oprea	Neal
Florance Cody	Rita
Kathy & Chuck Pumnea	Carolyn
The Windstrups	Oscar Ochoa
Rick Parker	Tony and Sharon Nevers
Gary Everhart	Caroline
Darlene O'Brien	Jean and Clara
Doug & Sue Matthews	Suzanne
Janet Terpstra	Dave Shelborne
Glen Nahler	Kali Rosalia
Tom	Nick B.
David Hamblin	Carlito
Jana Tolley	Don
Larry & Bonnie Perryman	Donna
Delta Rose	Phyllis
Winnie Owen	Diane
Breanne	Marly
Mom Bechtler	Jeff
Victor	Linda
Marian Clayton	Sandy
Ella P	Bill
Rita Stronczek	Debbie
Keren, Zuriel, and Gedeon	Marie Smith
Edna Cruz	Bruce Marshall
Charlie	Mark & Tina
Jerry & Rena Martinez	Sergio & Anthony
Nicole	Dave
Greg	Debbie & Meryl
Mary Ellen Edeus	Sherry
Jane and David	John
Flora R.	Hazel
Tyler Gall	Wendy
Phil	Jessica S
Luana Sulkowski	
Sonny Buono	

Genesis 21:1-8

21 The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. ² Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. ⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." ⁷ And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age." ⁸ The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

Romans 6:1-11

⁶ What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 10:16-20, 26-32

¹⁶ "I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the gentiles. ¹⁹ When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you at that time, ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

²⁶ "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² "Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven."

The Spirit of Your Father

Genesis 21:1-8; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 10:16-20, 26-32

*Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. "Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven." **His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me!***

Your Father knows every sparrow that is and every sparrow that ever was, and your Father is aware every time one of them falls to the ground. Not only is your Father aware, but your Father is there! Not one falls to the ground *without* your Father. Wow! It is no accident that Jesus chose the sparrow to provide this example, as sparrows are one of the most common birds on earth. They exist the world over in large numbers. I imagine that you have even encountered a few here at church—in our garden, or even flying through our hallways and sanctuaries! And your Father loves every single one of them so much, that your Father is there with them when they fall so that they do not fall alone. That, of course, is the point. If God knows and loves every single sparrow, how much must God know and love every single one of us!

Indeed, God knows the number of every single hair on our heads. If Jesus were speaking today, with the science of microbiology, I am sure that he would say that God knows every part of every cell in our bodies—indeed every atom that makes up every part of every cell of our bodies. Of course God does! After all, God created every single one of us, including the sparrows. And on this Father's Day we get to celebrate the truth that God is a good, good Father who knows absolutely everything about us and loves us still. As is the case with the sparrow, God our Father is with us when we are soaring, and God our Father is with us when we fall to the ground. God our Father is with us when we get up again. God our Father is with us when we have made our last fall.

And it is not just some abstraction, some idea of God off in distant heaven watching over us. It is the concrete truth of our everyday lives. God is here with us! How can this be? Earlier in our reading from *Matthew*, Jesus tells us. He is talking to the disciples about the severe hardship and persecution they will face in doing the work of sharing the good news of God's love and building the Kingdom: *"I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the gentiles."* Uff! It has always been a dangerous thing to stand up for love and to stand against the injustices of the powers and principalities of this world! As was then, so is now! But wait, Jesus continues, *"When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you at that time, ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."*

The Spirit of your Father. Several weeks ago we celebrated the inbreathing, the *inspiration*, of God's Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Today we get to keep celebrating the truth that God's Holy Spirit is still all around us and within us. And so, through the miraculous, mysterious wonder of the triune nature of our God, our good, good Father is all around us and within us. Do not worry about how you are speak or what you are to say, for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Your Father knows you down to the atomic makeup of your being. Your Father loves you in the fullness of all of who you are, intentionally made by him. Your Father is there for you, there with you, through it all. When you rise, when you fall, when you get up again, and when you fall again, all the way until the end. And in those hardest of times, when your back is up against the wall and it feels as if all of the violent forces of the powers and principalities of this world are seeking to destroy you, the Spirit of your Father is there in your very essence, in your very breath, in your very voice, speaking up for you.

Let us imagine together what the Spirit of your Father might say in those hardest of moments. I am sure that we can draw some Wisdom from what the best human fathers in our lives might also say. First, to those powers and principalities that would seek to destroy you, that voice of authority and protection would boom forth. *"Stop! You shall not lay a hand upon even a single hair of my children, and I have counted every single hair!"* *"Stop! If you want to get to them, you have to get through me first!"* *"Stop! These children belong with me, these children belong to me!"* And that voice of justice and righteousness and discipline would sound. *"This is wrong! Violence is wrong! You must stop hating, you must stop harming, you must stop controlling,*

you must stop using your power and privilege for evil!” And that voice of compassion and transformation would call forth. *“You don’t have to do this! You can change your ways! You also belong to me, and I love you! I want to summon forth the best of you. And I know that you are capable of good, for I know every hair on your head, too!”* Oh yes, the Spirit of your Father can do all that at once—protect, rebuke, and foster transformation!

Now let us imagine what the Spirit of your Father might speak to *you* in those hardest moments. Again, drawing from the Wisdom of the best human fathers in our lives, let us hear those words of encouragement. *“You’ve got this, because I’ve got you! And even if you feel like you can’t do it, I’ve still got you!” “Be not afraid, for I am with you always!” “I am rooting for you!” “I believe in you!” “You are powerful!” “You are beautiful!” “You are gifted!” “You are enough!” “You are more than enough!”* and, most importantly, *“I love you!”* Oh yes, the Spirit of your Father is saying all that and more when you need to hear it the most. You may not always hear it audibly, but if you listen with the ears of your heart, those words will vibrate through your inmost being. *“I love you! I love you! I love you!”*

God our Father is the same God who is Love, and Love is the most powerful force in the universes. With the Spirit of your Father all around you and within you, with the Spirit of Love all around you and within you, all shall be well. When you rise, when you fall to the ground, when you rise again, when you fall again, until the very end. He is with the sparrow. He is with you.

And in the spirit of Love, let me say, “Happy Father’s Day! To all you dads, stepdads, foster dads, granddads, uncles, older brothers, church dads, mentors, and everyone else who has embodied good fatherhood for us—thank you! Thank you for your labors! Thank you for your energy! Thank you for your patience! Thank you for your understanding! Thank you for your kindness and compassion and care! Most of all, thank you for your love! Amen.

Morning Has Broken

469

BUNESSAN. 5.5.5.4 D

Eleanor Farjeon, 1931

Gaelic melody
Arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

C Am Dm G Dm G C

1. Morn-ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing, Black-bird has
2. Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en, Like the first
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing Born of the

Em Am Em F G C Am F C

spo - ken Like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall On the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness Of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, Praise ev - ery

Am G C G Am Dm G7 C

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing Fresh from the Word!
gar - den, Sprung in com - plete - ness Where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion Of the new day!

This Is My Father's World

293

TERRA BEATA SMD

Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

Harm. 1953 for *The Hymnbook*; alt. 1988

Maltbie Davenport Babcock, 1901

1. This is my Fa-ther's world, And to my lis-tening ears All
2. This is my Fa-ther's world: Oh, let me ne'er for - get That

na - ture sings, and round me rings The mu - sic of the spheres.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world: I rest me in the thought Of
This is my Fa-ther's world: The bat - tle is not done; Je -

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the won - ders wrought.
sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, And earth and heaven be one.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10 with refrain

Thomas Obediah Chisholm, 1923

William Marion Runyan, 1923

1. *Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Great is Thy faith-ful-ness!



Morn-ing by morn-ing new mercies I see; All I have need-ed Thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!