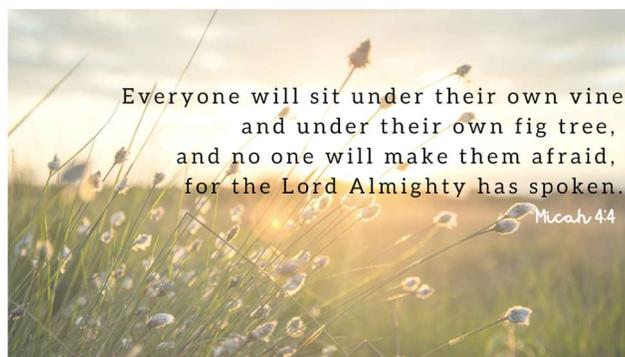


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WILLMAR, MN
September 5, 2021**



Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from
One License with license # A-723596 and CCLI License #3272690

*Please rise as you are able
Please join in speaking/singing **bolded** text

PRELUDE

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

***Opening Words**

People of God, who do you come to worship?

We come to worship the one true God.

How will you worship?

**Not with words alone, but by living lives
of justice and love.**

Come, you who belong to God.

Come, you who are foolish in the eyes of the world.

**Come and abide in God's tent and in God's heart,
now and forever.**

***Opening Hymn #35 (GG)**

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

Words by Joachim Neander (1680) translated by Catherine Winksworth (1863)

Permission to print lyrics obtained from One License with license #A-723596

**Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!**

**Hast thou not seen how thy desires
e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
Gladly for aye we adore him.**

Prayer of Confession

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors. Far too often, O God, we desire to look wise in the eyes of the world. We have not spoken truth with our hearts. We have said and done hurtful things to our friends. We have forgotten our true identity, wandering into ways that are not yours. We have lost the path of true worship, focusing on form and words rather than deeds. We have forgotten what true discipleship is. And because of this, you have a quarrel with us. Forgive us and help us live into becoming the people you have created and called us to be: people of justice and love and truth and humility, and yes, even foolishness. May we be fools for Christ, embracing our true identity, even in the face of the world's scorn and derision?

God has called us and blesses us when we live God's ways and not the world's. God's love embraces us even when we fall short of what God desires for our lives and actions. Know that the God of blessing loves and forgives us with a fierce tenderness. And in so knowing, may our lives and souls be transformed.

Special Music

Lorie Skaro-Johnson, Flute
Chris Schneider, Accompanist

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Children's Message

Prayer Response #701 (GG)

"Sanctuary"

Words & Music by John W. Thompson and Randy Skruggs
©1982 Full Armour Publishing / Whole Armour Publishing
Permission to print lyrics obtained from One License with license #A-723596

**Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary for you.
(repeat)**

Scripture Lesson

Micah 4:1-5

Message

"Living Within Our Means"
Rev. Leanne B.. Thompson

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

With confidence in God's loving care, we pray the prayer which Jesus taught us:
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 Prayer

We have been called to lives of justice, love, and truth. We have been blessed to be a blessing. Let us generously offer all that we are and all that we have to further this beloved community of love, justice, truth, and blessing.

**O God,
you bless us in so many areas of our lives—
in places we often fail to recognize as blessings.
Help us have eyes to see and hearts to understand
the depth of your love and blessing.
Today, we give out of that blessedness,
dedicating ourselves to lives of justice and love,
giving all that we are and all that we have
to bring about your beloved community,
here and now. Amen.**

Hymn of Preparation #661(GG)

"His Eye is On the Sparrow"

Words by Civilla Durfee Martin (1905)

Music by Charles H. Gabriel (1905)

Permission to print lyrics obtained from One License with license #A-723596

**Why should I feel discouraged?
Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely
and long for heaven and home, when Jesus is my portion?
My constant friend is he:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me,.**

**I sing because I'm happy (I'm happy)
I sing because I'm free (I'm free) for his eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me.**

**"Let not your heart be troubled," his tender word I hear,
And resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears,
Though by the path he leadeth but one step I may see:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me,.**

I sing because I'm happy (I'm happy)

**I sing because I'm free (I'm free) for his eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me.**

**Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
When song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to him; from care he sets me free:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me,.**

**I sing because I'm happy (I'm happy)
I sing because I'm free (I'm free) for his eye is on the sparrow,
And I know he watches me.**

Celebration of Holy Communion

God is here.
God's spirit is with us.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.
Let us give thanks to God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give thanks to you, creating God, breath of all being; the earth is yours and all that is in it, and all who dwell therein. You founded it upon the seas and made it firm upon the deep. You planted seeds in fertile ground, to rise and sing your praise.

You formed us from the earth and planted goodness in our souls, that we might love like you. You called us to live your law of harmony and to long for your commands. Yet, when our disordered cravings bowed down our spirit, you did not leave us low, but bent down to meet us and grow us up again.

Therefore we lift our voices in thanksgiving, for you have wondrously made us.
By water and your life-giving Spirit, you have more wondrously remade us
to join the song of creation and forever sing your praise:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of goodness and life,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks, O God, that you sowed your Word in Jesus, to grow your kingdom here on earth and draw us near. Jesus planted mercy wherever he went, to reap a greater righteousness. He shared bread with outcasts and sinners and healed the brokenhearted.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us
Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, gave it to his friends, and said,
Take, eat, this is my body broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing,
gave it to his friends and said, Drink this, all of you:
this cup is the new covenant in my blood,

poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his dying and rising, we offer you this bread and wine, and ourselves in grateful service. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts and all your people here today. Breathe your Spirit over all creation that together we may cultivate peace in every corner of the world.

Then bring us to that blessed mountain where with the meek and pure of heart we will live forever in blessedness as we taste the fruits of heaven.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
by the inspiration of your Life-giving Spirit,
we worship you, Creating God, in songs of endless praise.
Blessed are you, now and forever. Amen.

Would those serving Communion please come forward?
Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Family of Faith,
you are invited to come forward to receive Communion.
There will be one station up front where a gloved/masked server
will hand you a piece of bread which you can eat, and then a cup of juice which you can drink
before returning to your seat by the side aisles. If you prefer, there are pre-packaged elements
available on the table that you can pick up instead.
If you are not comfortable coming forward,
we will serve you where you are seated.

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!
Come, for all is prepared.

As we journey in faith as individual Christians and as a congregation, we thank you for this meal you have provided along the way. You have given us manna in the wilderness, and living water through our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you, gracious God, thank you. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

Closing Hymn #643 (GG)

“Now Thank We All Our God”

words by Martin Rinkart (1636), translated by Catherine Winksworth (1858)
Music by Johann Cruger (1647), harmony by Felix Mendelssohn (1840)
Permission to print lyrics obtained from One License with license #A-723596

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With every joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,

**To Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
The one eternal God, when heaven and earth adore,
The God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.**

Charge & Benediction

“The Blessing”

words and music by Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, and Steven Furtick
©2020 Capitol CMG Paragon / Kari Jobe Carnes Music / Worship Together Music / Writer’s
Roof Publishing / Music by Elevation Worship Publishing
CCLI License # 3272690

**The Lord bless you and keep you,
Make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.
(repeat)**

Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.

**The Lord bless you and keep you.
Make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.**

POSTLUDE