

July 13, 2025



**First Presbyterian
Church**
of Pittsburgh

WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:45 am

****Please stand as you are able***

Prelude: *Variations on “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” (Nicaea)*
Wayne Earnest

Wayne Earnest, *organ*

Time of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Daniel B. Merry, *Interim Senior Pastor*

***Responsive Call to Worship**

Leader: God hears our voices in the morning
and harkens to the sound of our cries.

**People: We enter the house of God to worship;
in awe and fear we stand before the eyes of God.**

Leader: God knows the intention of our hearts
and is not deceived by actions that seem noble.

**People: We are not here to boast, but to pray,
and to glory only in the cross of Jesus Christ.**

Leader: God pours out steadfast love in abundance
and leads us in the ways of righteousness.

**People: We have come to hear God's directions
and to be equipped to work in God's harvest.**

All: Let us together this Sabbath morning worship the Lord.

***Hymn:** *“Give Praise to Our God” (located in this bulletin)*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Merry

Sovereign God, our false pride brings us to our knees before You,
seeking once more to be freed from the burden of our sin.

We have grabbed for ourselves what is rightly to be claimed by others.

We have lived deceitfully, speaking lies
and trying to reorder the world to revolve around us.

We have failed to share the bounty You have poured out on us,
or to witness convincingly to the good news of Christ for all people.

Help us to change, O God,
as You forgive and offer us a new start.

Time of Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Children's Message

Rev. Merry

***Hymn:** *"Shout to the Lord"* (located in this bulletin)

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:3-10

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: *"What's the Plan?"*

Rev. Merry

***Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed**

We 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 Spirit, 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 sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Pastoral Prayer and 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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Call for the Offering (*Online giving available, scan code on back*)

Rev. Merry

Anthem: "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

Music by Ian Douglas Mitchell arr. by John Coates Jr.

Matt Sartore, *soloist*

1. O love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

2. O Light that follows all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

3. O Joy that seekest me thru' pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow thru' the rain
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

4. O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be. Amen.

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; alleluia, alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Merry

***Hymn: "God Whose Giving Knows No Ending"** (located in this bulletin)

***Invitation, Charge and Benediction**

Postlude: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

arr. Fred Bock

Wayne Earnest, *organ*



Hospitality Hour

Join us after worship this morning for a time of refreshments and fellowship in the chapel. If you're visiting with us, we would especially like to get to know you!

Birthday Blessings to: Nancy Leininger, Jami Bale and Judy Shipley

Welcome Wayne Earnest, Guest Organist

Dr. Wayne Earnest earned his bachelor's degree at West Liberty State College, master's at the University of Michigan, and doctorate the University of Cincinnati. He was a college professor for several years and a church musician for decades in various denominations. Additionally, he has played recitals in America and Europe and has published articles on church music. While "officially retired," he continues playing as a substitute-/interim-organist, teaching, composing, writing articles on church music, and working to revitalize the church in the 21st century. One of his favorite quotes is, "They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

Musical Notes from Wayne Earnest:

Prelude: Variations on Holy, Holy, Holy!

1. Dialogue
2. Gigue ("Trinity")
3. Largo ("though the darkness hide Thee")
4. Trio ("Trinity")
5. Trinity Triplet Toccata

Postlude: A joyful, jazzy arrangement of the *Doxology*, following the theme of our final hymn.

Shout to the Lord

A E A G Esus E

A E F#m

My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none
My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref -

E D A/C# D

like — you. All of my days, I want to praise
- uge and strength, let ev - ery breath, all that I am,

1 A/E F#m G D6 Esus E

the won - ders of your might - y love.

2 A/E F#m G D6 Esus E

nev - er cease to wor - ship you.

Refrain A F#m D D/E

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
I sing for joy at the work of your hands: for -

A F#m Dmaj7 Esus E

pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise to the King.
ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.

F#m 1 D

Moun-tains bow down and the seas will roar at the
Noth - ing com-pares to the prom -

E F#m E/G#

sound of your name.

2 D E A

- ise I have in you.

Give Praise to Our God

PSALM 149

1 Give praise to our God and sing a new song,
 2 With tim - brel and harp and joy - ful ac - claim,
 3 In glo - ry ex - ult, you saints of the Word;
 4 For this is God's word: the saints shall not fail,

a - mid all the saints God's prais - es pro - long;
 with glad - ness and mirth, we praise your great name;
 with songs in the night high prais - es ac - cord;
 but o - ver the earth the hum - ble pre - vail;

a song to your Mak - er and Rul - er now raise,
 for now in your peo - ple your plea - sure you seek,
 go forth in God's ser - vice, be strong in God's might
 all rul - ers and na - tions shall yield to their sway.

all chil - dren of Zi - on, re - joice and give praise.
 with robes of sal - va - tion a - dorn - ing the meek.
 to con - quer all e - vil and stand for the right.
 To God give the glo - ry; sing prais - es for aye.

876 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Unison F Gm/F F Dm B^b

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

F Gm/F F Dm

end - less store: na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
 grace con - ferred; ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

B^b F C/E

cross, grave's shat - tered door; gift - ed by you, we turn
 joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
 spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

Dm Am F B^b C

to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone; born with
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing,

Dm B^b F Gm7 Am Gm7 F

songs shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

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Our Sanctuary is open to visitors Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Call to Schedule a Tour!

You can reach the Church Office Monday – Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Call: 412-471-3436 | Email: info@fpcp.org | www.fpcp.org.

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