

October 27, 2024



**First Presbyterian  
Church  
of Pittsburgh**

**WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:45 am**

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

*The flowers today are given in honor of **Rev. and Mrs. Hall**, in recognition of their dedication and faithful service to  
First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh*

**Prelude: “Aria”**  
Paul Manz

Craig Dobbins, *organ*

**Time of Welcome**

Kathy Davis, *Elder*

**\*Responsive Call to Worship** (*Adapted from Philippians 2:4-11*)

Leader: You should have the same mindset as Christ Jesus, who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped.

**People: He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant....**

Leader: And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—

**People: Even death on a cross!**

Leader: Therefore God exalted him to the highest place, and gave him the name that is above every name.

**People: At the name of Jesus every knee should bow.**

Leader: In heaven, and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess:

**All: Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**\*Hymn: “And Can It Be”** (*located in this bulletin*)

**Prayer of Confession**

**G**racious God, long ago Mary and Joseph went to the temple to dedicate the baby Jesus to you. And just as Simeon said, his life revealed the inmost thoughts of many hearts. And so today, we open our hearts. We confess that we have not dedicated ourselves to you. We have sought our own way. Merciful God, forgive us. Teach us to be humble servants after the example of Christ.  
*Amen.*

**Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Hymn: “Child of God”** (verses 1 and 2)

Child of God, your life is held  
From first cry to final breath,  
In the gracious arms of Christ,  
Who destroyed the pow’rs of death.  
Child of God, be raised with him;  
Child of grace, set free from sin.

Precious are the spoken words,  
Sweet the path the waters trace,  
Holy sign upon your head,  
Water streaming down your face.  
Child of God, hear what we say,  
You belong to Christ today.

## Sacrament of Baptism

Rev. Thomas M. Hall II, *FPCP Pastor Emeritus*

### *Silas Paul Kobulnicky*

Son of *Gregory Michael Kobulnicky* and *Matti Renee Johnston Kobulnicky*

#### **\*Hymn: "Child of God"** (verses 3 and 4)

Marked as God's own by this seal,  
Safely held in love's embrace,  
In this Sacrament receive,  
Words of promise, words of grace;  
Child of God, no more your own,  
You belong to Christ alone.

Know, dear child, that love abounds,  
And new life is given here.  
At this font you are God's own,  
As the spirit hovers near.  
Child of God, all things are new,  
When Christ leaves his mark on you.

#### **Scripture Reading: Luke 2:22-35**

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. <sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." <sup>33</sup> The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon:** "*God in Our Arms*"

Rev. Tom Hall

#### **Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

**O**ur 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.*

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

**I** 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. I 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.

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

Brian Vertz

**Anthem: "What Wondrous Love"**

Traditional arr. by William Walker

Jackie Guthridge and Viviana Antonio, *sopranos*  
Joanna Lau, *flute*

1. *What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!*  
*What wondrous love is this, O my soul!*  
*What wondrous love is this*  
*That caused the Lord of bliss*  
*To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,*  
*To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.*

2. *When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,*  
*When I was sinking down, sinking down,*  
*When I was singing down*  
*Beneath God's righteous frown,*  
*Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,*  
*Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.*

3. *To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing;*  
*To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.*  
*To God and to the Lamb*  
*Who is the great "I Am";*  
*While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;*  
*While millions join the theme, I will sing.*

4. *And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;*  
*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.*  
*And when from death I'm free*  
*I'll sing and joyful be;*  
*And thro' eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;*  
*And thro' eternity, I'll sing on.*

**\*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!

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Brian Vertz

***Service of Portrait Dedication in Honor of Reverend Thomas. M. Hall II***

**Scripture Reading**

Kathy Davis

**The Chapel Portraits**

**Artist's Inspirations**

James Sulkowski

**Time of Sharing**

Megan McFarland, *Elder*

**Prayer of Dedication**

Kathy Davis

***God In Our Arms: Embracing the Life You Were Created For***

Keith Burris

**Reflections**

Rev. Tom Hall

**Closing Prayer**

**\*Hymn: "Across the Lands" (*located in this bulletin*)**

**\*Invitation and Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude: "Recessional"**

Frank W. Asper

Craig Dobbins

## Across the Lands

A D G D

1 You're the Word of God the Fa-ther from be-fore the world be -  
 2 Yet you left the gaze of an - gels, came to seek and save the  
 3 With a shout you rose vic - tor - ious, wrest - ing vic - tory from the

A G D/F# Em7

gan; ev - ery star and ev - ery pla - net has been fas - hioned  
 lost and ex - changed the joy of heav - en for the an - guish  
 grave, and as - cend - ed in - to heav - en, lead - ing cap - tives

G A D G

by your hand. All cre - a - tion holds to - geth - er by the  
 of a cross. With a prayer you fed the hun - gry, with a  
 in your way. Now you stand be - fore the Fa - ther, in - ter -

D A G

pow - er of your voice. Let the skies de - clare your  
 word you calmed the sea; yet how sil - ent - ly you  
 ced - ing for your own; from each tribe and tongue and

D/F# Em7 Asus A

glo - ry; let the land and seas re - joice.  
 suf - fered, that the guil - ty may go free.  
 na - tion you are lead - ing sin - ners home.

Refrain G D/F# G A

You're the au - thor of cre - a - tion, you're the Lord of ev - ery -

Bm G Bm7 A7 D A

one, and your cry of love rings out a-cross the lands.

G2 D A 1, 2 G2 D.C. 3 G2 A7sus A7 D

## And Can It Be

G Am/C D7 G Am/C D G

1 And can it be that I should gain an in - terest in the  
 2 He left his Fa - ther's throne a - bove— so free, so in - fi -  
 3 Long my im - pris - oned spir - it lay fast bound in sin and  
 4 No con - dem - na - tion now I dread, for Christ, and all in

D/A A7 D G D G D

Sav - ior's blood? Died he for me, who caused his pain— for  
 nite his grace— emp - tied him - self of all but love, and  
 na - ture's night. Your sun - rise turned that night to day; I  
 him, is mine! A - live in him, my liv - ing Head, and

C G G/D D7 G D G

me, who caused his bit - ter death? A - maz - ing love! How  
 bled for Ad - am's help - less race! What mer - cy this, im -  
 woke— the dun - geon flamed with light! My chains fell off, your  
 clothed in right - eous - ness di - vine, bold I ap - proach the e -

C A D G C D G

can it be that you, my Lord, should die for me?  
 mense and free, for, O my God, it found out me!  
 voice I knew; I rose, went out, and fol - lowed you.  
 ter - nal throne and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

*Refrain* D D7

A - maz - ing love! How can it  
 A - maz - ing love! How

G C G Am G/D D7 G

be that you, my Lord, should die for me?  
 can it be that you, my Lord,

## Ongoing/Upcoming Opportunities . . .

### Fellowship Reception

Everyone is invited to fellowship after worship service today for a complimentary luncheon and book signing. Please have a seat at a dining table in the chapel or lounge after the service. At the conclusion of lunch, Rev. Hall will be welcoming guests and signing copies of his devotional book, which features a collection of his sermons and reflections, as commissioned by the Session. This reception presents a wonderful opportunity for attendees to engage with Rev. Hall, gain insights from his work, and receive a personalized copy of the book. We look forward to seeing you there!

Additional copies of *God in Our Arms: Embracing the Life You Were Created For* will be available for purchase: \$15 for paperback and \$25 for a leather thin (flexible) edition. Should you feel inclined to make a check or cash donation, please designate “**October 27.**” Envelopes may be either given to ushers during the Worship Offering or placed in a donation box in the Chapel by the stage. All proceeds will be designated to First Presbyterian Church to allay expenses for this event.

### Welcome to the Organ, Craig Dobbins

A native of West Virginia, R. Craig Dobbins was educated at Baldwin-Wallace University, The University of Michigan, and Clare College of Cambridge University. Prior to serving thirty-five years as the Director of Music Ministries at Sewickley Presbyterian Church, he served in the same capacity at the First Presbyterian Churches of Greenville, Mississippi and Jacksonville, Florida. He is an active member of the American Guild of Organists and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, serving both organizations at the local, regional, and national levels. Thank you for sharing your gifts, Craig!

### Nursery News

We welcome parents to keep their children with them in the sanctuary today for this special service. The Nursery will be available to caregivers to seek refuge and utilize the resources within the nursery as needed. Please see any Usher or Deacon should you need assistance.

### Birthday Blessings to:

Malachy Whalen and John Hoffman

### Honoring Sean Baran

The Luley Organ Company -- a vital partner in the Willet Window lighting project -- has proposed an inspiring initiative to honor our beloved music director, Sean Baran. The Cymbal II stop and Zimbelstern of our magnificent pipe organ have both been in need of repair for years. The Cymbal II stop, per the pros, sounds like "shattering glass." The Zimbelstern is a charming star atop the organ pipes that rings small bells -- a reminder of the shining star that Sean is to our congregation -- but it has been silent since the 1980s.

A significant part of the cost for these repairs lies in removing, transporting, and reinstalling the pipes. With the removal of pipes necessary for the lighting installation, however, we have a unique opportunity to reduce these costs -- to a total of \$3,750. This project will beautifully reflect Sean's passion for color, sound, and movement of the organ. We invite you to consider contributing to this meaningful project in his honor. Contributions can be sent directly to the church office or placed in the offering plate. Please indicate "Sean Baran Memorial" on your contribution to ensure it is correctly allocated. Thank you for your generosity in celebrating Sean's legacy.

### Willet Window Update

This summer, FPCP received a grant from the Benter Foundation to permanently illuminate the Willet Window, the medallion window facing Sixth Avenue. The project, approved by both Trustees and Session, is underway and will be completed in November in time for **Light Up Night on November 23rd**. This grant is one in a series of grants and investments that the Benter Foundation has undertaken to improve the "streetscape" along Sixth Avenue, in cooperation with the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership.

As in the previous temporary lighting installed in support of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Clear Story Creative has designed the permanent lighting system and will be installing and commissioning it. Luley Organ Company has been involved in the planning and installation as well. FPCP will benefit from this project in several ways:

1. When properly illuminated, the Willet Window can be more fully appreciated, though full restoration will be required to fully experience its beauty and majesty.
2. The theatrical LED technology reduces energy consumption. It allows for tuning of the colors in and brightness of light to bring out the details in the window in a way that standard lights cannot.
3. The backstory of the Willet Window links FPCP and Pittsburgh to an important direction in national church architecture as the designer, Willaim Willett, lived and worked in Pittsburgh during the creation of the Window. Moreover, it is the first example of this style of window in the USA. Willet went on to become a major stained glass window designer of his era.

While the target date is November 23<sup>rd</sup>, it is likely that the installation and commissioning will be completed before that time. If so, the Session is prepared to have an early event for members to observe the "lighting" of the window. However, the ultimate timing depends on other factors. Session suggests that members "pencil in" Saturday night, November 23 to participate in "First Light" for the Willet Window. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

## First Church Staff

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Our Sanctuary is open to visitors Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:30 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.

### Visiting Us Today?



**Scan Code to Connect with Us!**

### Giving Online?



**Scan Code to Give!**

### Need Validated Parking?

Sundays only, get your parking ticket stamped at the FPCP Welcome Center in the Narthex (front lobby). See the person in the payment booth at Mellon Square, Oliver Avenue or Smithfield Street garage to pay \$1 for parking.

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