



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

14th Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2020

Staying Flexible During Life's Transitions



sept. 6 @ fpc

image: healthline.com

SERVING THIS MORNING:

Music Director: Dr. Greg Turner

Worship Leader: Jenna Campbell

Song Leader: Linda Jackson

308 S. Crawford, PO Box 568, Fort Scott KS 66701 phone: 620-223-3180

email: info@fpcfs.org website: www.fpcfs.org

Connect to us on Twitter: [@FirstPresFS](https://twitter.com/FirstPresFS), Instagram: [@fpcfortscott](https://www.instagram.com/fpcfortscott), Facebook: [/FirstPresFS](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresFS)

WiFi Network: FPC-WiFi Password: 620223380

Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Praise the Lord!

**Sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful,
for the Lord takes pleasure in the people.**

Let the faithful sing for joy.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Almighty God,
whose ways are far beyond our understanding,
help us to trust your judgments
so that we may do your will
by loving you and one another.
In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-14

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ² "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. ⁴ If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵ The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶ Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸ That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹ Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. ¹⁰ Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover. ¹² "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. ¹⁴ "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.

1. *Summoned by the God who made us rich in our diversity,
gathered in the name of Jesus, richer still in unity:*

Refrain:

*Let us bring gifts that differ and, in splendid, varied ways,
sing a new church into being, one in faith and love and praise.*

2. *Radiant risen from the water; robed in holiness and light,
male and female in God's image, male and female, God's delight:*
3. *Trust the goodness of creation; trust the Spirit strong within.
Dare to dream the vision promised sprung from seed of what has been.*
4. *Bring the hopes of every nation; bring the art of every race.
Weave a song of peace and justice; let it sound through time and space.*
5. *Draw together at one table all the human family;
shape a circle ever wider and a people ever free.*

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Amid the countless things
that human beings cannot fully comprehend about God,
there stands this:

God so loves us as to bathe us with grace
and feed us with mercy and forgive us our sins.
Confident in the love of God, let us pray together.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Lord God,
while we were still slaves to sin,
you died for our salvation.
Yet we still worship the false gods of the world,
forgetting that you are Lord.
Loving worldly wealth,
we have not loved you with our whole heart
nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Trusting worldly strength,
we have not trusted your word
nor followed the Word-made-flesh.
Forgiving by worldly norms,
we have not shown mercy to others
as you have shown mercy to us.
Forgive us yet again, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel:

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ. And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us;

Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us offer and receive the peace of Christ as a sign of God's grace and assurance of forgiveness.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

All-knowing God,
you know our needs before we name them in prayer.

All-caring God,
you care enough to hear our prayers anyway,
knowing that all we truly need is your love.

All-loving God,
hear now these prayers that name the needs of your people:

Your people need health . . .

Your people need peace . . .

Your people need hope . . .

Your people need blessing . . .

Your whole creation needs your powerful presence.

We pray especially for those we name now silently or aloud...

All-powerful God,
the need is so great;
we rejoice that you are greater.

Hear these prayers we offer in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

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.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Holy Spirit,
as your word is read and preached,
pass among your gathered people,
opening minds to increase understanding,
opening hearts to bind us together in your love.
In Jesus' name we ask it. **Amen.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. ¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

SERMON:

"Staying Flexible During Life's Transitions"

Rev. Dr. Jared Witt

THE CONFESSION OF 1967: THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The new life takes shape in a community in which we know that God loves and accepts us in spite of what we are. We therefore accept ourselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

The new life does not release anyone from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, fear. We still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as we mature in love and faithfulness in our life with Christ, we live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

THE RECEIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Ever-present God,
just as Jesus promised to be among us
when two or three gather in his name, be among us now
that these offerings may become instruments of your love and justice.
In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

1. *Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I might
have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

2. *We are pilgrims on a journey,
here together on the road; we are here to
help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

3. *I will hold the Christ light for you,
in the night time of your fear; I will hold my
hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*

4. *I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you; I will share your
joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.*

5. *When we sing to God and heaven,
we shall find such harmony, born of all we've
known together of Christ's love and agony.*

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Household Prayers

Morning

O God of this and every morning,
as I begin this day, call my name;
as I step into this day, guide my feet;
as I live this day, care for those I love;
as I learn this day, teach me your ways.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Evening

God of stars and planets,
the setting sun ends this day for us
as it rises on a new day for others.
For us and for them, be light in every darkness.

In Jesus' name. Amen.