

First Presbyterian Church PC (USA) 340 Fifth Avenue South Saint Cloud, MN 56301

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Order of Worship May 18, 2025

PRELUDE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Darin

MOMENT FOR MISSION Terebinth Refuge Stephanie Morgan

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

INTROIT Variations on a French Tune Ring! Bell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP Pastor Darin

Alleluia! Christ is alive; let all the people praise him.

Let all creation sing with joy. Alleluia!

OPENING PRAYER Pastor Darin

*HYMN Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love No. 203

CALL TO CONFESSION Michelle Chan

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Michelle Chan

God of mercy, you command us to love one another across all differences, yet we often respond with fear and judgment that hinders your goal for humanity. Forgive our sins, we pray and give us true repentance that leads to life for all creation. Amen.

(Time for individual reflection and examination.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE Michelle Chan

*RESPONSE Amen!

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Pastor Darin

The grace and peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Michelle Chan

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 148

Michelle Chan

- ¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
- ² Praise God, all his angels; praise him, all his host!
- ³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!
- ⁴ Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!
- ⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.
- ⁶ He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
- ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
- ⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!
- ⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
- ¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
- ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
- 12 Young men and women alike, old and young together!
- ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Darin

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 11:1-18

Pastor Darin

Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'

⁸But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.

¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Even to the Gentiles" Pastor Darin

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Brief Statement of Faith, adapted Pastor Darin

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

*HYMN O Master, Let Me Walk with The No. 738

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

Pastor Darin/Clerk

WE GIVE OUR OFFERINGS Invitation to Give Prayer of Dedication



Michelle Chan Michelle Chan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Darin

(Children, you may come forward to pick up an instrument for the final song.)

*HYMN Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness No. 291

*BLESSING Pastor Darin

*Indicates to stand in body or spirit.

Kids are welcome during worship. We have Faithful Friends-an area just off the sanctuary for younger children who want to remain with their families but find it difficult to sit for the service. Kids' bags are also provided for help with children sitting in the pews. A nursery is provided for children under four.

Hearing devices are available from the sound desk.

We collect an **offering** each week. The offering, collected before and after worship, can be dropped in an offering plate located at the front and back of our sanctuary. You may also use the QR reader above.

The worship service is **livestreamed** on YouTube. You can join us again online or in person.

Name tags are provided in the pew rack in front of you.

Additional **Parking** is located on 4th Avenue side of the Church, The "back" entrance is open.

First Presbyterian Church Happenings

Serving Us Today (May 18)

Rev. Darin Seaman (Pastor), Michelle Chan (Worship Leader), John Detra/John Hoffman (Ushers), Jan Larson/Lois Buchin (Greeters), Lori Smith, Ariel Yu (Nursery), Ring! Bell Choir, Jullian Euteneuer, David Pennertz, Jon Tufte (Musicians), Jay Espelien, John Scott, Karen Ondracek (Audio), Tami Calhoun (Equal Exchange),

Terebinth Refuge (May 18)

We welcome Terebinth Refuge to our Sunday worship. A short update will be given during the service, and afterwards, staff will be available to answer any questions you may have. There will be products from the Hope and Healing Store available for purchase.

G.I.F.T. (Generations In Faith Together) - "Shine Your Light" Banquet!

Join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for a light brunch as we come together to celebrate the milestones of our children.

Plant Sale (May)

Plant sale certificates are now on sale! The certificates (\$10) are for plants and flowers for your garden. Some of the proceeds go to the youth ministry. Thank you, Pattison Farms (David Morreim), for giving us this wonderful opportunity.

Cashwise Brat Sale (June 6/7)

The Youth plan to do a brat sale at Cashwise on June 6th and 7th to help raise funds for campers going to Clearwater Forest. Look for a signup to help with this ministry.

LowerTown Project (June 12)

SAVE THE DATE! Free benefit concert outside the church on Thursday, June 12th starting at 5pm. Bring your lawn chairs and your singing voice as we sing songs of faith and hope. Food trucks will be available onsite. Games and activities for all ages will be part of the festivities.

Calendar

Mon., May 19

7:00 pm - Focus on Recovery Group

Tues., May 20

9:00 am - Men's Bible Study

5:30 pm - LowerTown Project Rehearsal

6:30 pm - Interfaith Power & Light

Wed., May 21

9:15 am - Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm - Online Prayer Group

Thur., May 22

2:00 pm - Closer Walk Men's Rehearsal

Fri., May 23

7:00 am - Men's Bible Study

Sun., May 25

10:00 am - Worship Service