

## First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

June 14, 2015

10:00 a.m.

*In preparation for worship, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.*

### ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn Sing (9:45)

Concerns of the Church

Prelude "Assurance" Beck

Call to Worship from Psalm 92

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

**to sing praises to your name, O Most High.**

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;

**At the works of your hands, I sing for joy.**

\* Hymn 611 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"  
*Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.*

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, the parable of the mustard seed teaches us  
that a little faith can produce great work in your kingdom.  
Yet we are too timid to bear the fruit of your righteousness,  
for we walk by sight and not by faith.  
Forgive us, Lord; we do not uphold the poor or the downtrodden.  
We do not speak up for the powerless or the voiceless.  
We do not sacrifice ourselves for the needs of our neighbors.**

**Renew us with the love of Christ  
so that we live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ  
who became the seed of your righteousness in us.**

\* Silent Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

\* Response: "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!" (591)

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

### PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17 (NT, p. 181)

Psalter: Psalm 92 (Hymn 682)

A Time with Children

Anthem "I Sing the Almighty Power of God" D. McCullough

Gospel Lesson: Mark 4:26-34 (NT, p. 38)

Sermon: "Who is Running This Joint?" Rev.

Carter

### RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\* Hymn 684 "Faith Begins By Letting Go"  
\* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (Hymnal, p. 35)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory "The Twenty-Third Psalm" Basler

\* Doxology (Hymnal 606)

\* Prayer of Dedication

### GO IN GOD'S NAME

\* Hymn 714 "God of the Fertile Fields"

\* Charge and Benediction

*Today's service concludes with a fire drill. Please move safely and quickly  
from the building, and join us in the lower parking lot for our church picnic.*

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\* All who are able shall stand.

**The flowers** this morning have been given by Betty and Don Keen to the glory of God and in memory of Don's mother, Edith Keen.

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

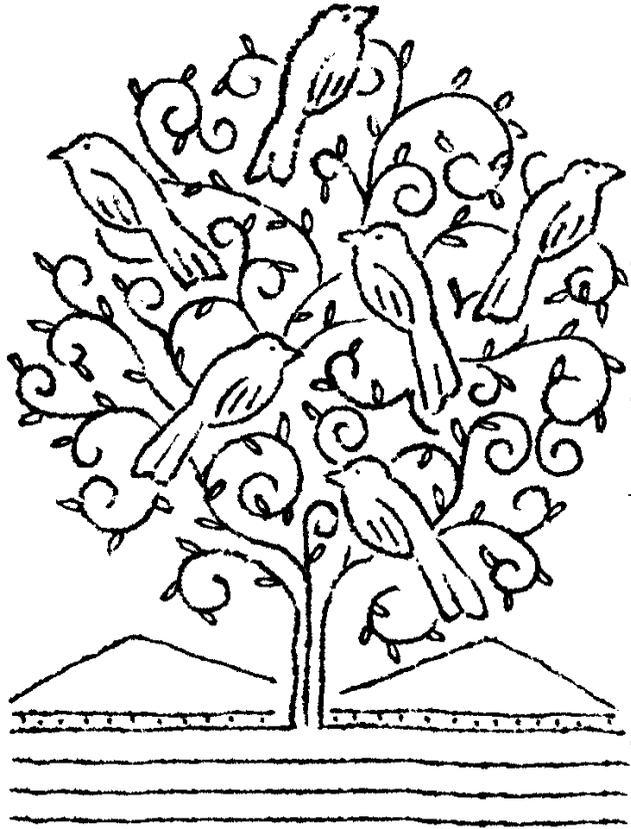
Pastor	William Carter
Director of Educational Ministries	Tina Ide
Director of Music	Susan Kelly
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Sue Flynn
Welcomer	Briar Woodley
Ushers	Meg Hatch, Elaine Lavelle



*We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.*

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you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows  
and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches  
that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.



The kingdom of God... is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed

M a r k 4 : 3 0 - 3 2

## ***2 Corinthians 5:6-17***

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences.

We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in

Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

## ***Mark 4:26-34***

He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.