



COMBINED WORSHIP



JULY 26, 2020

At First Presbyterian Church
121 S. Harrison St.
Saginaw, MI 48602-2193

Livestream service in
collaboration with
Countryside Trinity and Second
Presbyterian Churches
Sundays online @ 10:30 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Sunday, July 26, 2020 – 10:30 A.M.
“Soli Deo Gloria” – “To God Alone The Glory”
8th Sunday after Pentecost

-----**ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME**-----

WELCOME, GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Rev. Brant Piper)

PRELUDE

“Parting Words”

original piece by Andrew Glynn
featuring Andrew Glynn, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP (Rev. Brant Piper)

HYMN NO. 408 “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit” SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Rev. Philomena Ofori-Nipaah)

Short opening collect, then silent time of confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Rev. Philomena Ofori-Nipaah)

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn "Sweet, Sweet Spirit". The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 6/8. The first staff has the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" with chords A, E, D E A, D, E above it. The second staff has the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" with chords A, E, Bm E A, D E A above it.

PASTORAL PRAYERS (Rev. Brant Piper)

Short intercessions with time for silent reflection

ANTHEM

"Celebration" original song by Michael Wechter
featuring Michael Wechter, Andrew Glynn, Collin Whitfield and Erin Whitfield
(aka "The Dream Team")

FIRST SCRIPTURE—Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

(Rev. Philomena Ofori-Nipaah)

SERMON SCRIPTURE—Romans 8:31-39

(Rev. Ted McCulloch)

SERMON

"Not Going Our Separate Ways" **(Rev. Ted McCulloch)**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(Rev. Ted McCulloch)

Apostles' Creed

UNISON: 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 Ghost, 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 sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Toccatà for Two Pianos"

original composition by Collin Whitfield
featuring Collin Whitfield and Michael Wechter

OFFERING OF GIFTS (Rev. Philomena Ofori-Nipaah)

OFFERTORY "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" English folk melody
featuring Emi Wechter, flute, and Michael Wechter, piano

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Rev. Philomena Ofori-Nipaah)

HYMN NO. 846 "Fight the Good Fight" DUKE STREET

BENEDICTION (Rev. Ted McCulloch)

SENDING SONG "May the Peoples Praise You" by Keith & Kristyn Getty
featuring Erin Whitfield, soprano, and Collin Whitfield, piano

408 There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
know him in his full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I
one to prof - it when you say, "I am

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
going to walk with Je - sus all the way."

This gospel hymn grew out of this African American author and composer's intense experience of prayer with her interracial choir in Los Angeles one Sunday morning before worship. She recalled that sense of "a sweet, sweet Spirit" when she sat down at her piano the next day.

Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill - ing us with your love; and for these bless - ings we

lift our hearts in praise; with - out a doubt we'll know that we have

been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

Fight the Good Fight 846

1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;
 3 Cast care a - side; lean on thy guide.
 4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.

Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
 lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.
 God's bound-less mer - cy will pro - vide.
 God chang - eth not, and thou art dear.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be
 Life with its way be - fore us lies;
 Trust, and thy trust - ing soul shall prove
 On - ly be - lieve, and thou shalt see

thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
 Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
 Christ is its life, and Christ its love.
 that Christ is all in all to thee.

The opening phrase here (based on 1 Timothy 6:12) is not a military image but an athletic one, from a Greek verb meaning "struggle" or "grapple" or "wrestle." The sports context continues in later stanzas reflecting the experience of a runner (recalling Hebrews 12:1-2).