

# First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls

Our Vision Statement of the First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls is: God's timeless love transforms each of us to joyously continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in our community and in our world.

**July 16, 2023**

Ministers: The members of the congregation

**Pastor: Rev. Scott Prouty**

**Assemble in God's Name**

**Prelude:** Elaine Hagen

**Welcome**

**Read Vision Statement**

*God's timeless love transforms each of us to joyously continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in our community and in our world.*

**Call to Worship**

**L:** The very word of God is a light to our feet, a lamp to our path.

**P:** We gather this day to hear the Word of God,

**L:** to offer prayers and sing songs of praise.

**P:** We gather this day, to worship God!

**Prayer of Invocation**

Almighty God, as we stand in awe of Your goodness and mercy today, we invite You to be present amongst us by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Creator God, we declare that we love You. Thank you that You have made the way of love known through Your son Jesus Christ.

**Hymn #14 "For the Beauty of the Earth"**

*1 For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:*

*Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*2 For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: [Refrain]*

*3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: [Refrain]*

*4 For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: [Refrain]*

*5 For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given; for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven: [Refrain]*

**Call to Confession**

To know God is to know of God's mercy, justice, and love. To know God is to also know ourselves, and we are a people who have not loved as much as we should, always showed mercy, or worked for justice. So let us offer our prayer of confession, knowing that out of God's great mercy, we will be forgiven and made new.

**Prayer of Confession**

Gracious and loving God, we are a people who are always concerned about ourselves. We worry about what is ours and are concerned with getting more. We have not been guided by Your Spirit or the teachings of Christ. Forgive us, we pray, and gently guide us back to Your way. Help us to think of others and share what we have with the world.

**Time for Silent Prayers of Confession**

## Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus! Know you are forgiven, and be at peace. Thanks be to God. Amen.

## Response Hymn #582 “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

*1 Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose life has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*2 World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

## Share the Peace of Christ with One Another

### Hymn #20 “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

*Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

*1 Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, God made their glowing colors; God made their tiny wings.*

*[Refrain]*

*2 The purple-headed mountain, the river running by, the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky: [Refrain]*

*3 The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun, the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one. [Refrain]*

*4 God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.*

*[Refrain]*

## Proclaim God’s Word

### Moment for Children

### Prayer of Illumination

In the reading of Your Word, may we be given light to see. May Your Word rest in our hearts and minds and in so doing, transform us into Your faithful people. Amen.

### Responsive Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

*A Story about a Farmer*

*13 That same day Jesus left the house and went out beside Lake Galilee, where he sat down to teach. [a] 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he had to sit in a boat, while the people stood on the shore. 3 Then he taught them many things by using stories. He said: A farmer went out to scatter seed in a field. 4 While the farmer was scattering the seed, some of it fell along the road and was eaten by birds. 5 Other seeds fell on thin, rocky ground and quickly started growing because the soil wasn't very deep. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched and dried up, because they did not have deep roots. 7 Some other seeds fell where thornbushes grew up and choked the plants. 8 But a few seeds did fall on good ground where the plants produced 100 or 60 or 30 times as much as was scattered. 9 If you have ears, pay attention!*

*Jesus Explains the Story about the Farmer*

*18 Now listen to the meaning of the story about the farmer:*

*19 The seeds that fell along the road are the people who hear the message about the kingdom, but don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches the message from their hearts. 20 The seeds that fell on rocky ground are the people who gladly hear the message and accept it at once. 21 But they don't have deep roots, and they don't last very long. As soon as life gets hard or the message gets them in trouble, they give up.*

*22 The seeds that fell among the thornbushes are also people who hear the message. But they start worrying about the needs of this life and are fooled by the desire to get rich. So the message gets choked out, and they never produce anything. 23 The seeds that fell on good ground are the people who hear and understand the message. They produce as much as 100 or 60 or 30 times what was planted.*

### Scripture Reading: Romans 8:26-39

*26 In certain ways we are weak, but the Spirit is here to help us. For example, when we don't know what to pray for, the Spirit prays for us in ways that cannot be put into words. 27 All of our thoughts are known to God. He can understand what is in the mind of the Spirit, as the Spirit prays for God's people. 28 We know that God is always at work for the good of everyone who loves him. [a] They are the ones God has chosen for his purpose, 29 and he has always known who his chosen ones would be. He had decided to let them become like his own Son, so his Son would be the first of many children. 30 God then accepted the people he had already decided to choose, and he has shared his glory with them.*

*God's Love*

*31 What can we say about all this? If God is on our side, can anyone be against us? 32 God did not keep back his own Son, but he gave him for us. If God did this, won't he freely give us everything else? 33 If God says his chosen ones are acceptable to him, can anyone bring charges against them? 34 Or can anyone condemn them? No indeed! Christ died and was raised to life, and now he is at God's*

right side, [b] speaking to him for us. 35 Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, suffering, and hard times, or hunger and nakedness, or danger and death? 36 It is exactly as the Scriptures say;

*“For you we face death*

*all day long;*

*We are like sheep*

*on their way*

*to be butchered.”*

37 In everything we have won more than a victory because of Christ who loves us. 38 I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love—not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, 39 and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!

## Sermon

### Hymn #37 “Let All Things Now Living”

1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise; who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days. God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night: till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

2 By law God enforces, the stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine. We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration, a song let us raise, till all things now living untie in thanksgiving; to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

### Affirmation of Faith: (from A Declaration of Faith)

*We know that God is not confined to the story we can tell. The story itself tells us God works his sovereign will among all peoples of the earth. We believe God works beyond our imagining throughout the universe. We acknowledge no other God. We must not set our ultimate reliance on any other help. We must not yield unconditional obedience to any other power. We must not love anyone or anything more than we love God. We praise and enjoy God. To worship God is highest joy. To serve God is perfect freedom. Amen.*

## Announcements, Sharing of Joys and Concerns

### Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

### Give Thanks to God

### Call for the Offering

As Christ has been generous with us, to the point of death on the cross, let us be generous too. Let us give a part of what we have to God's work in the world. Let us give our offering.

### God's Tithes and Your Offering Received

### Offertory: Elaine Hagen

### Responsive Hymn #647 “Give Thanks”

1 Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.

2 And now let the weak say, “We are strong”; let the poor say, “We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!” Give thanks. Give thanks.

### Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, thank You for these gifts given this day and for the many gifts of our lives. May they be used ever and only to glorify You. Amen.

### Hymn #525 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

1 Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees) let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain: When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees) let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]

3 Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees) let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]

## Holy Communion

### Benediction

### Postlude: Elaine Hagen

**Bible Study** ~ We have two weekly Bible studies on Wednesdays. At 7 am we read and study the Old Testament (2 Kings) and at 2 pm, the New Testament (Acts).

**Help Needed** ~ We are looking for more individuals to learn how to use the church camera. If you are interested, please let Pastor Scott or Lee Davis know. Thanks! Pastor Scott

**Position Opening** ~ If you love to clean and keep things in working order and want to share that passion with our congregation please stop in for an application, Monday-Friday, between 9 am-1 pm, at: First Presbyterian Church, 235 E 4th St., RWF, or by email: churchofc@hotmail.com. The work averages 5-8 hours every two weeks. Cleaning times vary depending on activities in the building. If you have questions call Molly Miller at 712-579-0603.

**\*\*\*WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!** We have a sign-up for our church family to help us keep the church clean and beautiful during this transition phase of looking for a new custodian. A Sign-Up Genius has been set up for volunteers to sign up (the link was emailed out with the bulletin). If you are unable to sign up online you can call the church office and Tina will help you sign up!

**\*\*\*Thank you to an anonymous donor...** the church will pay \$100 a week for cleaning. Please contact Tina if you have any questions.

**Church Sign** ~ We need someone or a group of individuals willing to update the sayings on the sign outside in front of the church. **\*\*\*Thank you to an anonymous donor...** funds have been donated to pay anyone interested in committing to the upkeep of the sign out front. Please contact Tina if you have any questions!

**July Ushers: Head Usher: Drew Osborne, Bruce & Ann Tiffany, Merlin Goudy, Diane Davis, Lois Davis, Dan Tiffany**

**July Communion Servers: Ruling Elder Julie Rienstra, Michael & Rhonda Joldersma, Dan Tiffany, Bruce Tiffany, Scott Goodyear, Diane Davis**

**Deacon of the Month: Rhonda Joldersma**

**Today's Greeter: Scott & Laura Kohler**

**July Money Counter: Scott Goodyear**

### **Pray for The Following**

**Pray for the unchurched and lonely.**

**Pray for people living in our communities, the disenfranchised and people in other countries.**

**Pray for those who are having financial or marital difficulties.**

**Pray for those grieving the loss of a loved one.**

**Pray for our leaders at the city, county, state and national level and all military personnel.**

**Pray for those in need of food, medicine and shelter.**

**Pray for our church leaders and teachers.**

**Pray for our local, national, world political leaders.**

**Birthdays: Today: RJ Juell, 21st: Savannah Joldersma, 22nd: LeAnne Heimer**

**Anniversaries: 18th: Rick & Fran Hauge, 19th: Randy & Lynn Juell, Peggy & Ross Dolezal**

**Members of our Church Family in Hospice Care: Dorothy Symes, Lucille Byram**

**Members of our Church Family in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living or Other Facilities:**

*Millie Bunting, Bob & Bunny Nolting*

**All Those Fighting Cancer: Ralph Revier, Gary Hindt, Mark Pankonin (Shari Fuhr's brother)**

**If you know of something/someone to add to the Prayer List, please contact the church office.**

## Looking at the Week Ahead

- Sunday, July 16:** 10:15 am: Worship at Lower Shelter with Holy Communion  
Following Worship: Potluck at Lower Shelter
- Tuesday, July 18:** 4:30-6:00 pm: Ruby's Pantry  
7:00 pm: Pastor Scott has a Zoom Meeting
- Wednesday, July 19:** 7:00 am: Old Testament Bible Study  
2:00 pm: New Testament Bible Study  
6:00 pm: Pastor Scott has a Synod Zoom Meeting
- Thursday, July 20:** 9:30 am: Pastor Scott visits Leon King  
11:00 am: Pastor Scott takes Holy Communion to Rosemary Bennett  
Noon: Pastor Scott takes Holy Communion to Merlin Goudy  
1:30 pm: Pastor Scott takes Holy Communion to Gary & Jenifer Hindt  
3:00 pm: Pastor Scott takes Holy Communion to Bob Nolting & Millie Bunting  
3:30 pm: Pastor Scott visits Laura Kohler
- Sunday, July 23:** 10:15 am: Worship
- July 24-30: Pastor Scott is out of the office. The Rev. Anna Williamson will be available for any Pastoral Emergencies at 320-305-0346.**

**Our Sunday morning service is on our local channels...**

Nuvera (Channel 3), Media-Com (Channel 8): Mondays at 10 am, Wednesdays at 7 pm!

## **First Presbyterian Church**

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