

Firelands Presbyterian Church

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Jesus in Benares

Frank Wesley 1923 - 2002

September 27, 2026

Welcome to Firelands Church, a community of believers gathered by the Holy Spirit, growing together in Christ, and committed to serving God. Everyone is encouraged to stay for fellowship following the worship service.

The Order of the Liturgy

↑ Please stand in body or in spirit ↑

Prelude

Dona Nobis Pacem arr. Ham

Interlude No. 12 Tate

↑ Call to Worship

As the day's light breaks the darkness of the night,

As the first movements of the morning pierce the night's stillness,

So a new waking to life dawns within me,

So a fresh beginning opens.

In the early light of this day, in the first actions of the morning,

Let me be awake to life.

In my soul and in my seeing, let me be alive to the gift of this day,

Let me be fully alive.

Hymn 462

I Love to Tell the Story

↓ **Call to Confession:** Sin afflicts us all. We know what it is like, as Paul described it, to do the very thing we don't want to do, and not be able to do the good that we desire to do. Let us sincerely come before God for confession and repentance.

Prayer of Confession *(together)*

Almighty God, especially on Communion Sunday, we consider how You continually unfold Your creation before us. Season follows season. Life's joys mingle with life's challenges in a pattern displaying Your Truth and Goodness. Lord, we confess we comprehend only fragments of Your divine

plan. Teach us to open ourselves to the wonders of Your providence. Guide us into paths of righteousness that lay right in front of us. Draw us into Your counsels of wisdom as we open our minds and hearts before You. Include us in Your grand invitation to Life Eternal, as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Believe the Good News!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven; thanks be to God!

Glory to God - Hymn 447 (together)

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

Prayer of Illumination (together)

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 29: 1 - 10

¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

² **O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.**

³ Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ **Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

⁶ **Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your
steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

⁸ **Good and upright is the Lord; therefore God instructs sinners in the way.**

⁹ God leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble God’s way.

¹⁰ **All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

The Gospel: Matthew 21: 23 - 32

The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “Is Obedience an Option?”
Mr. Dennis Walls, Moderator of the Deacons

↑ Affirmation of Faith: Apostles’ Creed

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 sits on 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.

Hymn 361

O Christ, the Great Foundation (vs, 1, 2, 4)

↓ Presentation of Our Gifts, Offerings, and Thanksgiving

↑ Doxology - Hymn 609 *(together)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Peace: The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

↓ Prayers of the Church and 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Communion Invitation

Elder Ed Carlson

The Acclamation Let us praise the Lord.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. In Christ shall all be made alive.

Hear the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ: The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me." Everytime you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes. With thanksgiving, let us offer God our grateful praise.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Supper *(approach the table using the center aisle - return using the side aisles)*

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

Communion Meditation

Do This in Remembrance of Me *Smith*

Prayer after Communion

↑Hymn 269

Lead On, O King Eternal

Charge and Benediction

As we go forth from this place, our service of worship comes to an end. May our lives of worship and service begin anew with tomorrow's rising sun.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Benediction Response *(together)* *May you run and not be weary. May your heart be filled with song. And may the love of God continue to give you hope and keep you strong. And may you run and not be weary. May your life be filled with joy! And may the road you travel always lead you home.*

Postlude *Every Day I Will Bless You* *Blake*



Prayer Concerns

Bob Leib; Remi Floro; Terry Webster (Kay McIntosh’s cousin) after surgery; Rod Keen (knee surgery); Linda and Garrett Holcomb; David Douglas, Dottie’s son, and Dottie; John Vardyon; Jim Layton; Bill Umlauf; Rob Constein; Rob Morris, Judy Smithers’ brother; Linda Holcomb’s sisters, Lois & Carol; Bill & Pat Sharp; Karla Hoffman; Flona & Eric Pott; Karen Dietz; Anne Trombatore; Betty Layton’s friend, Sue; Sue Holman; Karen Salzgeber’s friend Becky Deredick; All those under a doctor’s care; All who travel this weekend.

Announcements

Exploring Our Faith Bible Study resumes Wednesday, September 30th, at 10:30am in the Conference Room, when we begin a study of the Apostles' Creed. Books are available in the church office.

Sometimes Serendipity Singers meet in the Sanctuary this Wednesday at 3:00pm.

Thursday Video meets this week on October 1. We hope to encourage you to make use of visual media to learn more about living your faith in God. “The House of David” is the featured video, with conversation to follow.

Our Adult Sunday School meets at 9:30am in the Conference Room. This adult class studies the Scripture lessons which are a part of the morning worship service.

This Week at Firelands: Office Hours 10am - 2pm, Tue.-Thurs

Today 09/27		9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship and Fellowship. Dennis Walls is preaching. The Reader is Jeanette Walls. Communion Servers are Marilyn Umlauf & Karen Dietz. Coffee Fellowship Hosts are Dan & Deb Barlow. 3:30pm Musical Arts Series - Adam Brakel at Immaculate Conception Church.
Monday		10:00am Sewing Group 2:00pm Exercise with Janety 4:00pm Bistro 163 Drive Thru Community Dinner 5:00pm Fresh Bread
Tuesday		
Wednesday		10:30am Exploring Our Faith Bible Study 3:00pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday		8:00am Cleaning Service 2:00pm House of David - video
Next Sunday 10/04		9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship and Fellowship. The Reader is Jane Gray-Moore. Communion Servers are Jay & Karen Viery. Coffee Fellowship Hosts are The Deacon’s.