

Words of Welcome and Sharing the Life of the Church

*Call to Worship

Pastor: We gather together to worship, knowing that God
is already here among us,

People: **giving thanks that nothing can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus.**

*Hymn God is Here Hymnal #409

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you plant each of us like seeds in the same
field and together we are nourished and nurtured by the
sun. We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain. We
are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow
towards what you call us to be.

When we deprive others of that same opportunity, **forgive us.**

When we want to uproot those whom we believe do not belong
in our part of the field, **forgive us.**

When we label others as good or bad rather than accept them
for who they are, **forgive us.**

When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a
mixture of weeds and wheat, **forgive us.**

When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives to
see what is growing there, **forgive us.**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Matthew 13:24-30

Sermon “Reality Check” Rev. Dr. Smith

*Hymn Amazing Grace Hymnal #649

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 sitteth 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.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn Go My Children Hymnal #457

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response (to the tune of Edelweiss)
May the Lord, mighty Lord, bless and keep you forever.
Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage for every endeavor.
Lift your eyes and see his face, keep his love forever. May
the Lord, mighty Lord, bless and keep you forever.

West Fork Presbyterian Church

The People of God Gathered for Worship
Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024 – 11:00 am



The Rev. Dr. Greg Smith is today's guest preacher. Greg is a United Church of Christ pastor who currently serves as CEO of White Rock Center of Hope – an ecumenical ministry that provides basic needs and personalized empowerment. Previously, he served nine congregations (in Texas and Florida), taught religion to undergraduates for eight years, and helped three organizations provide quality healthcare to underserved populations. More than 2,100 of Greg's reflections on matters of faith that matter are available on his blog: www.sowhatfaith.com

**“Let the good and bad grow together until the harvest;
then they will be sorted out.”**

Charles McCullough. *The Art of Parables: Reinterpreting the Teaching Stories of Jesus in Word and Sculpture* (Copper House, 2008).