



**Twenty-Fourth
Sunday
in Ordinary Time**
September 17, 2023
10:30 a.m. Worship

Forgiveness © Jan Richardson, janrichardson.com

Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18:22

First Presbyterian Church

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COMMISSIONED LOCAL PASTOR: DR. WENDY L. LAMB

MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT: REV. DR. STEPHEN SMITH

PASTOR EMERITUS: REV. JAMES C. HUFFSTUTLER

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: CURTISS ALLEN, JR., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC;

WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST;

AMY GANO, BELLS

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

This service is being livestreamed and can be viewed on our YouTube channel in real time or as a recording. **Large-print copies of this order of service**, as well as **audio enhancement devices** are available **from the ushers**.

We gather on Sunday for 3 reasons:

- **To seek God**- whom we find in sacred text and sacrament, in music and in song, in prayer, in the beauty of this space, in the stillness where we can hear our hearts. We offer God our thanks and praise, our lament and longing, and our resources. We let go of burdens and receive grace and forgiveness. We see the One our hearts love.
- **To practice Community** – rejoice w/those who rejoice, weep w/those who weep. To break bread with those whom we love and those whom we need to love more fully. We practice things our culture does not emphasize: resting, forgiving, sharing. Jesus asked us to love one another as he loved us, and we cannot do so without practice.
- **To listen for our Call**- often an invitation to go out and be or do or remember. God is speaking all the time: through conscience, nature, friends, and certainly scripture. We gather to listen for that Call and to recommit ourselves to discipleship.

Information on our common life can be found on our website www.fpcsb.net, along with sermons and newsletters. You can participate in our work by supporting us financially with a one-time or sustaining donation.

Children are welcome in worship. Younger children may go to the Nursery at any time.

OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Sunday, October 1st.

MORNING WORSHIP†

Lector: John-Paul Fletcher

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

I don't know if I continue, even today, always liking myself. But what I learned to do many years ago was to forgive myself. It is very important for every human being to forgive herself or himself because if you live, you will make mistakes- it is inevitable. But once you do and you see the mistake, then you forgive yourself and say, 'Well, if I'd known better I'd have done better,' that's all.

--Maya Angelou

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* *E. Hatch (1835-1889)*
Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.

INTROIT *Spirit of the Living God*¹ *Daniel Iverson*
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

*CALL to WORSHIP

Bless the Lord, my soul.

✘ **With all we are, we bless Your holy name.**

Bless the Lord, my soul.

✘ **We forget none of Your benefits.**

You pardon and rescue us.

✘ **You crown us with love and compassion.**

Your steadfast love is everlasting.

✘ **With all we are, we bless your holy name.**

† The symbols you will see in this order of worship mean:

*** Stand if you are able ✘ The congregation will read.**

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***HYMN**

*How Great Thou Art*²

O STORE GUD

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain: Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. (*Refrain*)

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" (*Refrain*)

PRAYER of CONFESSION

✘ Gracious and loving God,
you lived for us—we have not always lived for you.
You have forgiven us—we have not always forgiven others.
You have loved us—we have not always loved ourselves
nor have we loved one another.

(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

✘ Forgive us.
Help us to forgive.
Help us to live for you.
Help us to love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

✘ In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole. Amen.

² Text: Stuart K. Hine, 1953. Music: Swedish folk melody; adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1949. ©1949. 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust (US print rights admin. Hope Publishing Company; all other rights admin. CMG.) All rights reserved. Used by permission of CCLI licenses 21814829 & 21814812.

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

***ALLELUIA**

William Zeitler

Musical score for Alleluia in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. It contains a series of eighth notes with lyrics underneath: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -". Above the notes are chord markings: Em, B, Em, D. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: "lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le al - le - lu - ia!". Above the notes are chord markings: G, D, 1. Em, B, 2. Em Bm, Em. The score includes repeat signs and first/second ending brackets.

ANTHEM

Come to the Water

John B. Foley, S.J.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 18:21-34

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Dr. Wendy Lamb

HYMN

*Christ Be Beside Me*³

BUNESSAN

Christ be beside me; Christ be before me;
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me; Christ be below me;
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising, Light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me;
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me;
in ears that hear me Christ ever be.

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

(We offer our gifts as a response to God's Word, to be part of God's purposes in the world. You may place gifts in the plate as it is passed or on your way out – or by mail or online.)

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

- ✘ Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost, Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and OUR 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;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.

³ Text: 55 54 D; St. Patrick's Breastplate (8th cent. or later); adapt. by James Quinn, SJ, 1919-2010, © 1969, James Quinn, SJ. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Music: Gaelic melody arr Dale Grotenhuis. ©1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

***HYMN**

*When the Poor Ones*⁴

When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers,
when the thirsty water give unto us all,
when the crippled in their weakness strengthen others,

Refrain: then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,
when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,
when we love though hate at times seems all around us, (*Refrain*)

When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
when our lips can speak no words other than true,
when we know that love for simple things is better, (*Refrain*)

When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
when we learn how to make peace instead of war,
when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor, (*Refrain*)

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

John Stainer

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

GREETERS: Jeoff Molcan, Shelby Obershaw

USHERS: Chris Thomas, *Lead Usher*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

⁴ Text & Music: Jose A. Olivar & Miguel Manzano, 1979. Text trans George Lockwood, 1980, alt. (c01980 Abingdon Press. All rights reserved. Music ©1979 Jose A. Olivar & Miguel Manzano published by OCP. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK
Charlene Peterson, Beverly Snell
Elders: Susan Skoglund, Alex Smith, Tim Usher
Deacons: Dan Direen, Robin Edwards

This Weeks' Celebrations

Sep 17 Bonnie Ainsworth
Sep 18 Mindy Rueda
Sep 19 Kimberly Ballard
Sep 22 Al Rueda
Sep 23 Michael Cummings

What is God calling us to be and do at this time in this place? That's the work of Mission Assessment. Learn more, or find a survey you missed, at <https://fpcsb.net/mission-assessment>, or click **Mission Assessment** from the church home page. Surveys or other feedback to the MAT can be sent to the office, to any member of the team, or left in the box at the table in reception.

God's presence empowers us to bring peace to all people.

Through our gifts to the **Peace & Global Witness Offering**, we as a single congregation, participate in this larger work that we would not be able to do on our own. A gift to this Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world, as well as right here at home.

We will take up the Offering on Sunday, October 1st, World Communion Sunday.

Reformation Sunday, which we traditionally celebrate with bagpipes and dancers and shortbread cookies, will soon be here! We will have the Kevin R. Blandford Memorial Pipe Band and highland dancers. If you would like to help pay this cost, perhaps as a memorial to a loved one or friend, please get your offering, and the name of the person(s) you wish to honor, to the church office by **Tuesday, October 24th.**

And what is Reformation Sunday without shortbread cookies?

(Well, it's still Reformation Sunday, but we *really like* the cookies!) If you would like to bring shortbread for our celebration (you can make it or buy it), please bring it to the kitchen before church on or before Sunday, October 29th. The church will purchase some gluten-free shortbread, so that everyone may celebrate!

Music Box

Edwin Hatch attended King Edward's School, Birmingham, where he studied under James Prince Lee who later became the Bishop of Manchester; it was during this period of his life that his strong mental independence and extreme study habits were noticed. At this time he joined the Church of England (having been raised a nonconformist). He graduated from Oxford in 1857, after undergraduate studies at Cambridge.

In 1858, Hatch won the Ellerton prize — still offered today: "If you are a University of Oxford student with excellent writing skills you could win the Ellerton Theological Essay Prize. It is worth £500. The essay should be up to 10,000 words and be written on a doctrine or duty of the Christian religion, or any other subject approved by the judges."

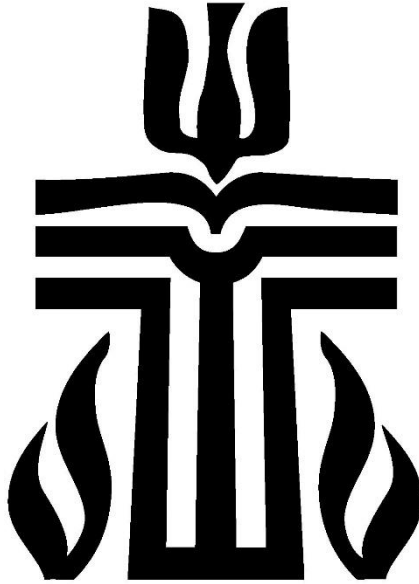
In 1859, he was ordained an Anglican priest, ministered in an Anglican parish in the slums of east London before accepting a position at Trinity College in Quebec. Until his return to Oxford in 1867, he also served as rector of the High School of Quebec, and as professor of Classics at Morrin College. He also served as vice-principal of Saint Mary Hall until 1885. In 1884 he was appointed university reader in ecclesiastical history (regarded as he was as a leading authority on the early Church). In 1873, Hatch edited *The Student Handbook to the University and Colleges of Oxford*, which appeared in several revised editions during and after his time at the University.

While a Grinfield lecturer from 1880 to 1884 he presented his concordance on the Septuagint. A 'concordance' is a book in which you can look up a word — say, 'angel' — and it lists all the places in the Bible where that word occurs. The Septuagint is a translation done in the 4th century B.C.E. from Hebrew into Greek. In Jesus' day it remained in widespread use among Greek speaking people in the ancient world — many quotes from the Old Testament in the New are verbatim from the Septuagint. The Septuagint is still an extremely important document in ancient Biblical Language studies as it functions as a 'linguistic glue' between the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament. The idea of doing a concordance of the Septuagint is a daunting prospect — particularly when cutting edge technology was index cards!

Near as I can determine Hatch wrote maybe a dozen hymn texts, of which "Breathe on Me Breath of God" is by far the most popular.

The tune to which Hatch's hymn text is usually paired was written by Robert Jackson (1842-1914). He was born in Oldham (near Lancashire), England. Jackson's father played the organ at St. Peter's Church in Oldham. Robert attended the Royal Academy of Music, and served as organist at St. Mark's Church at Grosvenor Square in London. He also played in the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. In 1868, he took over his father's duties at St. Peter's in Oldham, and played the organ there 46 years — together father and son served almost an entire century.

-- *William Zeitler*



The seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a symbolic statement of the church's heritage, identity, and mission in contemporary form. Its power depends on both its simplicity and complexity, as well as its traditional and enduring qualities.

The basic symbols in the seal are the cross, Scripture, the dove, and flames.

As a church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), our congregational life is governed by the Ruling Elders of our current Session:

Jeanne Clark, Susan Skoglund, Alex Smith, Tim Usher, Mary Bolaños,
Brooke Dvorak, Pat Morris, Martha Pinckney, Lily Bolaños,
Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough,
and Clerk of Session Amy Smith

and supported by our Board of Deacons:

Rebecca Allen, Sharon Landeros, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord,
Chris Wright-Thomas, Dan Direen, Robin Edwards, Rick Rodriguez,
Katie Smith, Brad Smith, and Dave Thomas