

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 22, 2023 10:30 a.m. Worship



Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?"
They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give
therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's,
and to God the things that are God's."

Matthew 22:20-21

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, November 5th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Wanda Skipper

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

“True, the image can sometimes be difficult to recognize. When we look at each other, or in the mirror, we tend to see the inscriptions that our business with the world has left on us: you are what you look like, what you have, what you wear, what you do, the company you keep. Nevertheless, underneath all those inscriptions is a much deeper mark: the kiss of light in the eyes, the watery sign of a cross made once upon a time on the forehead, the image of all those children in the arms of their mothers, and the little ember of resolve to remember them. All those faces are a part of your face, when you begin to see the image that God sees, the image engraved in the palm of the hand of the God who, in Jesus, stands behind us with full faith and credit.”
- Richard E. Spalding, *Feasting on the Word*

*The Reverend Samuel Roberts will preach for us today.
He is a chaplain and a member of the Presbytery of Riverside.*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE for MISSION

Jeanne Clark

PRELUDE

Rhosymedre

R. Vaughan-Williams (1872-1958)

INTROIT

This Is the Day¹

James Christensen

This is the day the Lord has made, Rejoice and sing to God's name.

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

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

¹ Text & Music: James Christensen. ©1983 National Music Publishing/admin. by Fred Bock Music Company, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

***CALL to WORSHIP**

(We will read this back and forth from the pulpit side and the lectern side.)

(Pulpit Side)

(Lectern Side)

Lord, you have welcomed us, saying,

“I know you by name, and you have found favor with me.”

Lord, you have promised us,

“My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

Lord, you have blessed us, saying,

“I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you.”

Lord, you have humbled us, saying,

“I will proclaim my holy name in your presence.”

ALL: Lord, show us your glory! We worship you!

***HYMN 12**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

PRAYER of CONFESSION² *(from Psalm 99)*

The Lord says:

I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy,

and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

Let us now confess, knowing the mercy and compassion of God.

The Lord reigns!

✘ **God, do we tremble in awe before you?**

(silence)

The Lord reigns!

✘ **Worthy God, have we raised your name in praise?**

(silence)

The Lord reigns!

✘ **Sovereign God, have we executed justice?**

(silence)

The Lord reigns!

✘ **We bow before you, holy God.**

Forgive us. Cleanse us. Free us.

In the strong name of Jesus Christ. 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 *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

(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 the melody for the first line of the hymn: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia". Chords are indicated above the staff: Em, B, Em, D. The second staff continues the melody: "lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!". It includes two endings. The first ending is marked "1." and has chords F#m and B. The second ending is marked "2." and has chords F#m, Bm, and F#m.

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Children are always welcome in worship. After the Time with the Children you may go to KidSpace in Room 11.

Infants through pre-Kindergarten may go to the Nursery at any time.]

ANTHEM

We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God³

John Carter

We sing your mighty pow'r, O God, that made the mountains rise, that spread the flowing sea abroad, and built the lofty skies. We sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day. The moon shines full at your command and all the stars obey. We sing your goodness, sov'reign God, who filled the earth with food; you formed the creatures with your word, and then pronounced them good. Oh! How your wonders are displayed, where e'er we turn our eyes; if we survey the ground we tread, or gaze upon the skies. There's not a plant or flow'r below, but makes your glories known; and clouds arise and tempests blow, by order from your throne. While all that borrows life from you is ever in your care, and ev'rywhere that we can be, you are present there. God is present there.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:15-22

New Testament, pg. 24

SERMON

Is It Lawful?

Rev. Samuel Roberts

HYMN 712 v3

***As Those of Old
Their Firstfruits Brought⁴***

FOREST GREEN

**In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.**

³ Text: Isaac Watts, 1715, alt. Music: John Carter. Words & Music ©2002 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

⁴ Text: Frank von Christierson, 1960, alt. Music: English folk melody; arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906. Text ©1961, ren.1989 They Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company). All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

O God who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

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 during the offertory, or on your way out – or by mail or online.)

OFFERTORY *Shall We Gather at the River*

***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.

MORNING PRAYER 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.

***HYMN 687** *Our God Our Help in Ages Past*

ST. ANNE

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***BENEDICTION**

RESPONSE

Now Go Forth

Unknown

Now go forth with peace and understanding; now go forth with joy and fellowship; now go forth and show God's love; Go and serve.

***POSTLUDE**

Improvisation

GREETERS: Gill & Jane Snyder

USHERS: Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*
Tim Usher, Marilyn Kraft, *Security*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Sandy Garza, Sally Inglis, Josie Short

Elders: **Tim Usher, Mary Bolaños, Brooke Dvorak**

Deacons: **Rick Rodriguez, Katie Smith**

This Weeks' Celebrations

Oct 22 Adam Nord
Neal Williams

Oct 23 Thomas Patrick Dunn
Adelaide Shenton

Oct 24 Geri Atkins

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.

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 next **Tuesday, October 24th**.

More news and announcements are available in your Friday *Keeping in Touch* emails. If you are not receiving these, and you would like to, contact Mimi in the church office.

Music Box

“Shall We Gather at the River” — both lyrics and music — was written by Robert Lowry (1826–1899). The text refers to Revelation chapter 22 in which a crystal clear river with water of Life is described, issuing from the throne of heaven, all presented by an angel of God.

Lowry was born in Philadelphia. He studied theology at the University at Lewisburg (now Bucknell University) and on graduating in 1854, became ordained as a Baptist minister. He had charge of churches in New York City, Brooklyn, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He wrote a number of hymns with members of his congregations.

Among the churches he pastored in New Jersey was the Park Avenue Baptist Church. When the Park Avenue Church agreed to merge with the First Baptist church, Pastor Lowry agreed to resign in order to ensure the success of the merger. (The merged church still serves.)

In 1869 he returned to Lewisburg, Pennsylvania as a faculty member (having previously served as a professor of literature) and later went on to become its chancellor. From 1880 until 1886 he was president of the New Jersey Baptist Sunday School Union. He also served as the national president of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, and was married with three sons.

He is most remembered as a composer of gospel music and a hymn writer, and also worked as a music editor at the Biglow & Main Publishing Company. He was responsible for around 500 compositions, including "Nothing But the Blood," "Low in the Grave He Lay" (words and music), "Shall We Gather At The River?" and "How Can I Keep From Singing?" He also wrote the music and refrain for "Marching to Zion" (words by Isaac Watts).

Despite his success as a hymn writer, it was as a preacher that Lowry would have preferred to be recognized. He once stated: "Music, with me has been a side issue... I would rather preach a gospel sermon to an appreciative audience than write a hymn. I have always looked upon myself as a preacher and felt a sort of depreciation when I began to be known more as a composer."

-- 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

In this time of change for our congregation, a Mission Assessment Plan will be completed by our Mission Assessment Team:

Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher, Nancy Horstmann,
Marilyn Kraft, Jim Morris, Brent Nord, Irene Sandoval Suverkrup