

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 28, 2024 10:30 a.m. Worship



Hebrew Manuscript, Joshua 20 (<https://openn.library.upenn.edu>)

“Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

--Joshua 24:17

First Presbyterian Church

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COMMISSIONED PASTOR: DR. WENDY L. LAMB

MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT: REV. DR. STEPHEN W. SMITH

MINISTRY OF VISITATION: LAURIE STAFFORD

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

WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST;

AMY GANO, BELLS

PASTOR EMERITUS: REV. JAMES C. HUFFSTUTLER

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, August 4th.

Morning Worship†

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

Worship must never be construed as a one-way conversation, a monologue where we sing and pray and praise and testify but never stop to listen. A healthy covenant relationship, especially when it is a relationship with the Creator of the heavens and the earth, will feature lots of listening.

John D. Witvliet, *Reformed Worship*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

William Zeitler

Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.

*CALL to WORSHIP (*Psalm 89:1-4*)

- ✘ Sing of the Lord's great love forever!
With our mouths we will make known
his faithfulness to all.
His love is firm forever!
He established his faithfulness
in heaven itself.
God made a promise to David.
A covenant which lasts even today.
Praise the Lord!

*HYMN 69

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

HERE I AM

PRAYER of CONFESSION

- ✘ Lord, you have called us to worship you. We gladly gather! As we praise you, we know we could praise you more, and listen to you better. Sometimes our worship fails to be a two-way conversation. We sometimes treat it as a show, or we go through the motions, while you want to engage us on a very deep level.
(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

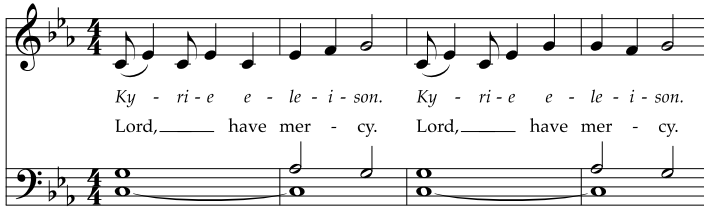
† The symbols you will see in this order of worship mean:

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

- ✘ **Renew us, we pray, according to your steadfast love. Remind us of your covenant faithfulness and have mercy on us in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

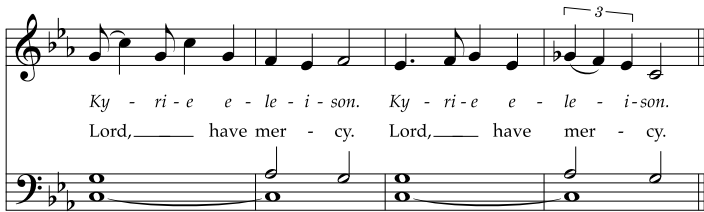
(We remain seated for the kyrie, an ancient song of the church. We will sing it through in Greek first and then in English.)

577 Lord, Have Mercy



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Note: Lower voices may hum.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Dinah Reindorf, 1987; arr. Sing! A New Creation, 2001
Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf
Music Arr. © 2001 Faith Alive Christian Resources

KYRIE ELEISON (Reindorf)

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ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

*ALLELUIA

William Zeitler



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Children are always welcome in worship. There are activity bags and books in the back of the room.

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

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

✘ **God of mercy,
you promised never to break your covenant with us.
Amid all the changing words of our generation,
speak your eternal Word that does not change.
Then may we respond to your gracious promises
with faithful and obedient lives;
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE**Joshua 24:1-17**

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in its midst; and afterwards I brought you out. When I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, you came to the sea; and the Egyptians pursued your ancestors with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. When they cried out to the Lord, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and made the sea come upon them and cover them; and your eyes saw what I did to Egypt. Afterwards you lived in the wilderness a long time. Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan; they fought with you, and I handed them over to you, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you. Then King Balak son of Zippor of Moab, set out to fight against Israel. He sent and invited Balaam son of Beor to curse you, but I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he blessed you; so I rescued you out of his hand. When you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, the citizens of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; and I handed them over to you. I sent the hornet ahead of you, which

drove out before you the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and oliveyards that you did not plant. “Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.

Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

1 Thessalonians 2:13

We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God’s word, which is also at work in you believers.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✦ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Covenantal Listening *Pastor Wendy Lamb*

(This four-part series on worship explores four dimensions of this covenant-renewal image. The primary focus will be on the new covenant relationship God makes with us in Christ. The secondary focus will be on the ways in which worship expresses, deepens, and shapes that relationship through the working of the Holy Spirit.)

CONVERSATION around TABLES

HYMN 451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Clara H. Scott

Verse 3 (Open my heart)

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

(We offer our tithes and gifts to be part of God’s purposes in the world, and we invite you to take part. You may place your offering in the plates as they are passed. You may always send gifts 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, 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 542 *God Be with You Till We Meet Again* Rankin/Tomer

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Improvisation*

GREETERS: Gil & Jane Snyder

USHERS: Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*

Jim Siegmund, *Security Usher*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Judy Steppins, George Biddlecombe, Lorraine Bishop
Elders: Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough
Deacons: Steve Smith, Dan Direen, Robin Edwards
Pastor Nominating Committee:
Susan Addington, Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher

This Weeks' Celebrations

***Jul 28* Charlene Peterson**

***Jul 30* Linda Kaufman**

***Aug 1* Amy Gano**

Hot Dog Fundraiser! Sunday, August 11th right after church. GrillMasters Al Rueda and Brent Nord will be ready to serve you delicious hot dogs, brats, and vegan hot dogs. This is a fundraiser for our Intern program, but we won't tell you how much it's worth—you decide! Donations only and you can have a delicious lunch and support the interns who do so much for us.

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.