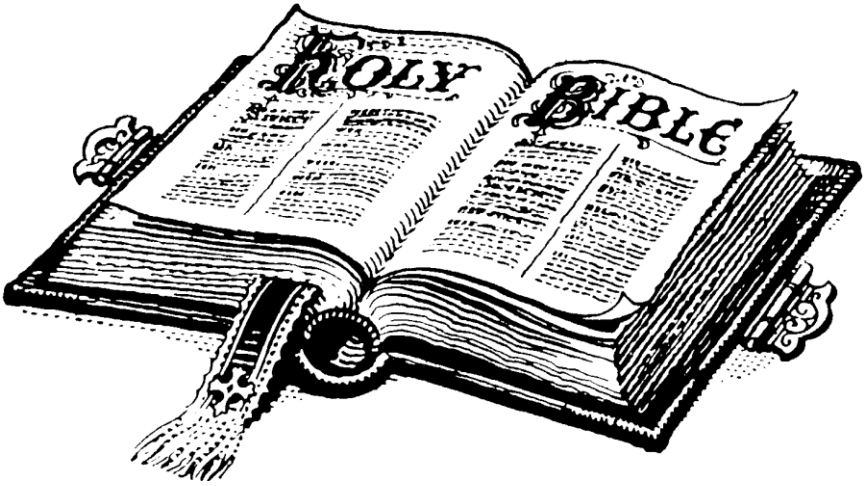


Twenty-First Sunday In Ordinary Time
August 25, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship



“Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

--Colossians 3:16

First Presbyterian Church

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909.882.3308

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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, September 1st.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Helen Babcock

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

And yet just because [the Bible] is a book about both the sublime and the unspeakable, it is a book also about life the way it really is. It is a book about people who at one and the same time can be both believing and unbelieving, innocent and guilty, crusaders and crooks, full of hope and full of despair. In other words it is a book about us.

Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Reality's Veil

W. Zeitler

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

INTROIT

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you. All on earth your scepter claim; all in heaven above adore you. Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

*CALL to WORSHIP (from Psalm 84)

How lovely is your dwelling place,

O God, most gracious host.

✠ **My soul longs, indeed it faints,
for the household of God.**

Even the sparrow finds a home

and the swallow a nest

at your table of grace,

O homemaking God.

✠ **Our hearts and our flesh sing for joy
to you, the living God.**

*HYMN 1

Holy, Holy, Holy

NICAEA

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

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

PRAYER of CONFESSION

✘ Watchful God, you know our plight. Offended, we have not believed your words. Complaining, we have betrayed your love. We are weak, estranged, wandering, and lost. Seeking to stand in our own strength, we fall. Strangers to your holiness, we wander. Defenseless against evil within and without, we are lost.

(We keep silence)

✘ Shine your light in our darkness,
and guide us back to our place in you. 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

Musical notation for the first system of 'Lord, Have Mercy'. It features a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 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.

Musical notation for the second system of 'Lord, Have Mercy'. It features a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it.

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

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. The melody is written on a single line. Chords are indicated above the staff: Em, B, Em, D. The lyrics are: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. The second staff continues the melody. Chords are indicated above the staff: G, D, 1. Em, B, 2. Em, Bm, Em. The lyrics are: lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le 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.]

ANTHEM

The Gift of Love¹

Hal H. Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, And have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin. Come, spirit, come, our hearts control, Our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship and are freed.

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

✘ **Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the Scriptures are read
and your Word is proclaimed,
we may hear with joy
what you say to us today. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

¹ Words and Music © 1972 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

John 6:67-69

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

God's Armor

Pastor Wendy Lamb

HYMN 649

Amazing Grace

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 bring forward your gifts and place them in the plate or give them to the usher with a basket. 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

Let us pray to the Lord, saying,

O God, keep your promise. ✘ **You have the words of life.**

✘ 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 838 *Standing on the Promises* Carter

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* John Goss
Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring; ransomed
healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise
the everlasting King.

POSTLUDE *Improvisation*

GREETERS: Bobbie Terrell, Claudia Oakes

USHERS: Brad Smith, *Lead Usher*

Rick Rodriguez, *Security Usher*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Beverly Snell, Judy Steppins, Ann Aguilera

Elders: Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann

Deacons: Mindy Rueda, Steve Smith, Dan Direen

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Brian Gano, Kendra Lamb, Jim Morris

This Weeks' Celebrations

Aug 25 Gill & Jane Snyder

Aug 26 Beatrice Star
Valentina Valenzuela

Aug 27 Jessica Edwards

Aug 28 Sarah Alyda Fletcher

Aug 29 Jim & Sheila Cimino

Aug 30 Wanda Gernux
Shannon Nolin

New Church Directories! I know—it's about time! We will have the new directories ready for you on **Sunday, September 8th**. *Please, please* look at your entry in the (*very*) old directory, and make sure it is correct, and has what you want listed in there (For example, if you no longer have a landline phone and you want your cell number listed now -- or at all. **Then call the church office by next Friday, August 30th with your updates.** If you no longer have the old directory, call us anyway and we will read the entry to you so you can update us if necessary.

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

“Space-time is doomed!” So says David Gross, Nobel Laureate in Theoretical Physics. And he has plenty of company in the physics community.

He doesn't mean that space-time itself is doomed, but that our concept of it has to go. Here's why...

Theoretical physics — concerned with the basics of how the Cosmos works — is roughly divided into two fundamental branches. The first is concerned with the really big and really fast — that would be Relativity, dealing with speeds of light (“Special Relativity”) and the gravitational fields of stars and such (“General Relativity”). The other is concerned with the really small — the building blocks of atoms themselves — that would be Quantum Physics.

Both Relativity and Quantum Physics have been confirmed by massive amounts of experimental evidence. We'll skip entirely any attempt at any detail. However, let's get a painless metaphorical ‘flavor’ of their differences:

- In Relativity the Cosmos is smooth. In Quantum Physics, the Cosmos is fundamentally chunky (a ‘quantum’ is one ‘chunk’).
- In Relativity, ‘chance’ is not involved at all, whereas in Quantum Physics everything is determined by ‘chance’.
- In Relativity, spacetime is curvy and fluid, whereas in Quantum Physics it's flat and stable.
- The maths involved of Quantum Physics vs. General Relativity are fundamentally different. When you plug the math of one into the other, you get a mathematical meltdown, so apparently the two theories don't play well together.

So now some physicists wonder if the problem may be our understanding of space-time itself. Today we assume that space and time are fundamental, that nothing is more real or basic than they. But what if there's a deeper reality behind ‘space’ and ‘time’, and what we understand as space and time are artifacts of this deeper physical reality? A ‘reality’ that we are unable to perceive directly? This isn't New Age thinking, this is Physics!

This reminds me of the famous Buddhist “Heart Sutra” (a ‘sutra’ is something like a sacred sermon), which denies the fundamental reality of our perceptions:

... there is no form, no feeling, no perception, no mental formations, no consciousness; no eye, no ear, no nose, no tongue, no body, no mind; no form, no sound, no smell, no taste, no touch, no object of mind; no realm of sight, no realm of consciousness, no ignorance, no end to ignorance...

Ha, maybe ancient Buddhists in deep meditation were ahead of our modern Theoretical Physicists! Just a fun thought.

The point is that what may seem like ‘settled fact’ may not be so at all. If even ‘space’ and ‘time’ aren’t settled fact, what else isn’t? How many ‘settled facts’ which are in fact false are there about ourselves? Or of what humanity is capable? Or maybe I personally seem stuck – what ‘unchangeable’ factor might be changeable after all?

I’m reminded of this quip:

“It ain’t what you don’t know that gets you into trouble. It’s what you know for sure that just ain’t so.” – Mark Twain

So when things are tough, or seem hopeless, I find hope in the idea that the Cosmos is much bigger, and much more Mysterious than my tiny grasp of it.

(To be continued next week...)

– *William Zeidler*



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:

Mary Bolaños, Brooke Dvorak, Pat Morris, Martha Pinckney, Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough, Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis, and Clerk of Session Amy Smith

and supported by our Board of Deacons:

Rebecca Allen, Dan Direen, Robin Edwards, Rick Rodriguez, Katie Smith, Brad Smith, Dave Thomas, Chris Wright-Thomas, Kristine French, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda

In this time of change for our congregation, a Pastor Nominating Committee has been elected by the congregation:

Susan Addington, Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher, Brian Gano, Kendra Lamb, Jim Morris, Shelby Obershaw, Christa Wallis, Neal Williams