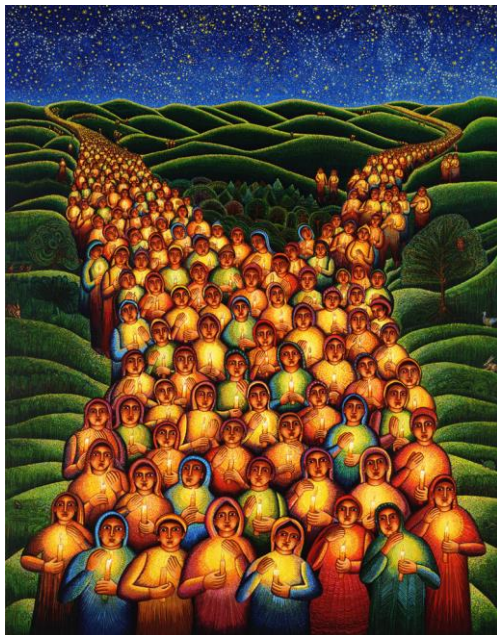


Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 27, 2025 10:30 a.m. Worship



John August Swanson, *Festival of Lights*

After this I looked, and there was a great crowd that no one could number. They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

--Revelation 7:9

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

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 with those who rejoice, weep with 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 3rd.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Mimi Lange

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

In these days of political division, social upheaval, economic uncertainty, communal instability, and ecological degradation, we may, like the Colossian community, find ourselves tempted to buy into the promises of flashy ideologies, self-help theories, or quick solutions. We may believe that what we have is not enough to respond to the rising pressures of the time. But the invitation extended by the author of Colossians is to resist such temptation and engage such chaotic times by remembering the power of our baptism, leaning into the faith gifted and taught us by our ancestors, and grounding ourselves in Christ, “in whom the whole fullness of deity dwells ... who is the head of every ruler and authority” (verses 9–10).

Kimberly Wagner, *Working Preacher*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Fantasia

J. Pachelbel

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

*CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT 411¹

Raúl Galeano

God is here today;
as certain as the air I breathe,
as certain as the morning sun that rises,
as certain when I sing you'll hear my song. *(Repeat)*

*CALL to WORSHIP

Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

✧ **The Lord will speak peace to the faithful,
to those who turn to God in their hearts.**

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

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

¹ Text: Raul Galeano, 1976; English trans. C Michael Hawn, 1998. Music: Raul Galeano, 1976; arr. C Michael Hawn and Arturo Gonzalez, 1999. English Trans. and Music Arr. ©2020 Choristers Guild. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #A706254. All rights reserved.

Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear the Lord,
and God's glory will dwell in our land.

✘ Alleluia! We worship you, O God.

*HYMN 643

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DUNKET ALLE GOTT

PRAYER of CONFESSION

✘ Holy One, we know the things that we should do, reaching out to the lonely and vulnerable, seeking ways to do good in the world, listening to and learning from others, yet we often stay in our own comfortable worlds and don't extend ourselves; we don't know how and we are already doing so much.

(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

✘ Remind us of your faithfulness to us and give us creativity and courage to extend ourselves. 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

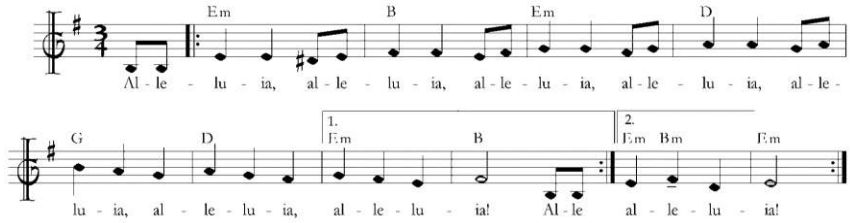
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

***ALLELUIA**

William Zeitler



TIME with the CHILDREN

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

SOLO

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Kathy Showman, Soloist

Chisholm/Runyan

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 2:6-10

So live in Christ Jesus the Lord in the same way as you received him. Be rooted and built up in him, be established in faith, and overflow with thanksgiving just as you were taught. See to it that nobody enslaves you with philosophy and foolish deception, which conform to human traditions and the way the world thinks and acts rather than Christ. All the fullness of deity lives in Christ's body. And you have been filled by him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great crowd that no one could number. They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and held palm branches in their hands. They cried out with a loud voice:

“Victory belongs to our God
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”

All the angels stood in a circle around the throne, and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell facedown before the throne and worshipped God, saying,

“Amen! Blessing and glory
and wisdom and thanksgiving
and honor and power and might
be to our God forever and always. Amen.”

Then one of the elders said to me, "Who are these people wearing white robes, and where did they come from?"

I said to him, "Sir, you know."

Then he said to me, "These people have come out of great hardship. They have washed their robes and made them white in the Lamb's blood. This is the reason they are before God's throne. They worship him day and night in his temple, and the one seated on the throne will shelter them. They won't hunger or thirst anymore. No sun or scorching heat will beat down on them, because the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them. He will lead them to the springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Extending Ourselves

Pastor Wendy Lamb

CONVERSATION around TABLES

HYMN 69

*Here I Am, Lord
Verse 3*

Schutte

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 761** *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

BEECHER

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 742**

SIZOHAMBA NAYE

We will walk with God, my brothers;
we will walk with God.

We will walk with God, my sisters;
we will walk with God.

We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come. *(Repeat)*

POSTLUDE

Hymn

GREETER: Linda McCarl

USHERS: Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*

Rick Rodriguez, *Security Usher*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord, Brandon Turner

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Debora Holk, Ron & Ruby Kraft

Elders: Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman

Deacons: Rebecca Allen, Brad Smith, Dave Thomas

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Brian Gano, Kendra Lamb, Jim Morris

This Weeks' Celebrations

Jul 27 Charlene Peterson

Jul 30 Linda Kaufman

Aug 1 Amy Gano

Thank you for your generous support of our food participants. We continue to accept donations of any shelf-stable foods. A suggestion list is at reception and on our website. **If you want to shop with a focus, we can use more canned beans, canned vegetables, and pop-top cans of fruit at this time.**

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

Once, in a quiet part of the world
where rivers ran backwards
and the stars could be heard humming in the dark,
there lived two souls
who loved each other
but often could not understand one another.

One spoke in Voice,
strong and alive.

She could speak truths on the wind,
shape feeling with tone,
charm birds down from trees
just by the way she laughed.

Her words danced like fireflies—
bright, quick,
full of life.

The other spoke in Ink.

His truths came slowly,
like spring water from stone.

He needed silence to gather them,
space to find the shape of what he truly meant.

But when he wrote,
it was as if the page became a mirror
that showed the soul itself—
honest, aching, luminous.

They loved each other
as best they could.

But when the days were heavy
or the heart was full,
their difference became a wall.

“Speak to me!” said Voice.
“Say what you feel. Right here. Right now.”

“I’m trying,” said Ink,
“but I lose it when I speak.
My words run away like startled deer.

If you’ll let me write—
just for a little—
I can give you something truer.”

It wasn’t from fear.
He would have spoken fire if he could.
But for him, words took time—
like stars forming slowly in the dark.

“That’s not real,” she said.
“Real is what’s spoken.”

And so the deeper truths remained unsaid.
The Voice felt abandoned.
The Ink felt unseen.
And silence grew between them —
not the good kind.

One night, in despair,
Ink wandered into the forest,
asking no one in particular:

“What do you do
when the way you can speak
is not the way you’re allowed to?”

The wind answered.
Or maybe it was the firelight.
It said:
“Some are born to speak aloud.
Some are born to speak in silence.
The true miracle is not in the speaking.
The miracle is in the hearing.”

The next morning, Ink returned.
He handed her a story—
not long,
but heavy with truth.

“This is not to replace our voices,” he said.
“Only to open the door to them.”

She read it.

When she finished, her voice was quiet—
not angry, not cold.
Just tired.

“I don’t know how to get through to you,” she said.

“I don’t, either,” he said.

And that was all.

They sat together in the hush that followed—
not holding hands,
not looking away,
just breathing in the stillness between them,
where something was missing
and something was real.

Outside, the wind moved gently through the branches,

-- *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:

Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough,
Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis,
Pat Morris, Susan Skoglund, Katie Smith, Neal Williams,
and Clerk of Session Amy Smith

and supported by our Board of Deacons:

Rebecca Allen, Brad Smith, Dave Thomas, Chris Wright-Thomas,
Kristine French, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda, Rick
Rodriguez, Jim Siegmund, Kyle Smith, and Christian Usher.

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