

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 10, 2025 10:30 a.m. Worship



Cross, Henri Edmond, 1856-1910. *Landscape with Stars*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of
things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

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, September 7th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Sue Alexander

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

Hope is not optimism, not wishing,
not a bet on the future,
but trust in what is already present, unseen.
I hope in the sunrise because the earth is already turning.
My faith is not that God will intervene
and make things better or fix problems;
my faith is that love is at work.
I trust in hidden love even as injustice runs loose.
I believe in our Oneness even as war and racism wound us.
I know our Belovedness even as we assault each other.
Even though we damage the earth,
though the violent rage and the rich oppress the poor,
still this world is born of Goodness,
and grace flourishes even in bad places,
and Love holds us in aching but untiring arms.
Even when the way is not well lit, I live in hope.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Sonata

D. Scarlatti (1685-1756)

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

INTROIT

He Leadeth Me

Gilmore/Bradbury

He leadeth me! O blessed tho't! O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be, Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. He leadeth
me, He leadeth me, By His own hand He leadeth me: His faithful follower I
would be, For by His hand He leadeth me.

*CALL to WORSHIP

In times of joy and of sorrow,

✠ We belong to God, who loves us.

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

* Stand if you are able

✠ The congregation will read.

In seasons of waiting and of doing

✘ We belong to God, who loves us.

Wherever, whenever we gather

✘ We are home, for God is with us.

*HYMN 100

Canticle of the Turning

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

PRAYER of CONFESSION¹

✘ Holy One,

you promise us a life full of blessing,

but we do not always believe.

You incite us to hope,

but we fall back into fear.

You urge us to give freely,

but we cling to what we have.

You call us to watch at all times for you,

but we grow careless.

Forgive us.

(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

✘ Increase our hope, enlarge our hearts,
and keep us alert to the wonders you work
in the world every day.

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.)*

KYRIE²

Dinah Reindorf

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.

¹ *Feasting on the Word Lectionary Liturgies*

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ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

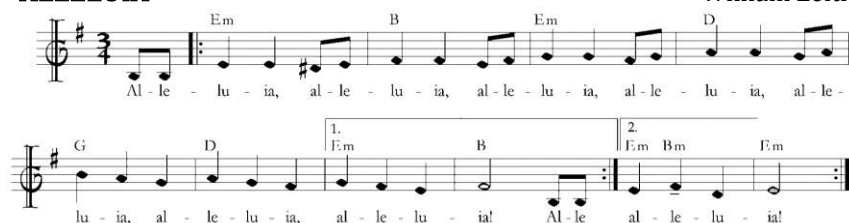
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

✘ 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.]

ANTHEM

Blessed Be the Lord

Timothy Shaw

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 15: 1-6 (CEB)

After these events, the Lord's word came to Abram in a vision, "Don't be afraid, Abram. I am your protector. Your reward will be very great."

But Abram said, "Lord God, what can you possibly give me, since I still have no children? The head of my household is Eliezer, a man from Damascus." He continued, "Since you haven't given me any children, the head of my household will be my heir."

The Lord's word came immediately to him, "This man will not be your heir. Your heir will definitely be your very own biological child." Then he brought Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars if you think you can count them." He continued, "This is how many children you will have." Abram trusted the Lord, and the Lord recognized Abram's high moral character.

Hebrews 11:1-16 (CEB)

Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see. The elders in the past were approved because they showed faith.

By faith we understand that the universe has been created by a word from God so that the visible came into existence from the invisible.

By faith Abel offered a better sacrifice to God than Cain, which showed that he was righteous, since God gave approval to him for his gift. Though he died, he's still speaking through faith.

By faith Enoch was taken up so that he didn't see death, and *he wasn't found because God took him up*. He was given approval for having pleased God before he was taken up. It's impossible to please God without faith because the one who draws near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards people who try to find him.

By faith Noah responded with godly fear when he was warned about events he hadn't seen yet. He built an ark to deliver his household. With his faith, he criticized the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes from faith.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out without knowing where he was going.

By faith he lived in the land he had been promised as a stranger. He lived in tents along with Isaac and Jacob, who were coheirs of the same promise. He was looking forward to a city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith even Sarah received the ability to have a child, though she herself was barren and past the age for having children, because she believed that the one who promised was faithful. So descendants were born from one man (and he was as good as dead). They were as many as the number of the stars in the sky and as countless as the grains of sand on the seashore.

All these people died in faith without receiving the promises, but they saw the promises from a distance and welcomed them. They confessed that they were strangers and immigrants on earth. People who say this kind of thing make it clear that they are looking for a homeland. If they had been thinking about the country that they had left, they would have had the opportunity to return to it. But at this point in time, they are longing for a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God isn't ashamed to be called their God—he has prepared a city for them.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

By Faith

Pastor Wendy Lamb

RESPONSE REFRAIN 389

Come and Sing the Praise of the Lord

HAL'LUHU

Sing Twice

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 817

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

DUNLAP'S CREEK

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

He Leadeth Me

Gilmore/Bradbury

Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine, Nor ever murmur or repine, Content,
whatever lot I see, Since 'tis my God that leadeth me! He leadeth me, He
leadeth me, By His own hand He leadeth me: His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

POSTLUDE

Hymn

GREETER: Jeanne Clark

USHERS: John-Paul Fletcher, *Lead Usher*

Marilyn Kraft, *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
Judy Steppins, Lorraine Bishop, Noé Falconi
Elders: Katie Smith, Neal Williams, Amy Smith
Deacons: Kristine French, Joyce Lyons, Rick Rodriguez
Pastor Nominating Committee:
Susan Addington, Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher

This Weeks' Celebrations

Aug 10 Aaron Saenz
Aug 11 Ryan Michael Mantei
Brent Nord
Kurt & Lisa Star
Aug 15 Alexia Aguilar
Ashley Ballard
Ramon Ramirez

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 and 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

An old man named Ruan lived in a crooked little cottage at the edge of the forest. He was blind, so he knew the world by other means than sight—by the rough grain of the table he'd sanded smooth, by the cinnamon warmth of drying herbs, by the slow weather of sounds.

His house had a flaw: the front door latch was broken.

He meant to fix it, truly. But something else always came first—the kindling to split, the kettle to mind, the paths to memorize again after every storm. So the door stayed slightly ajar. Not open, not closed. Just... able to move.

Neighbors worried for him. "Aren't you afraid?" they'd ask. "Of thieves? Wild animals? Wandering strangers?"

"I'm less afraid of what might enter," Ruan would answer, "than of shutting out what should."

Some evenings he would sit by the doorway and listen to the light thinning in the trees—the last bees stitching the air, the hush gathering like a shawl about the house. The broken latch made a soft click whenever the breeze changed, as if the door itself were practicing how to welcome.

One evening, as the kettle sang its small, steady note, he felt a different stillness at the threshold. No footfall. No knock. Only a presence, like a hand cupped around a candle.

"Hello?" he said, not turning his head.

A young girl's voice answered, bright but gentle, as though careful not to spill whatever she was carrying. "May I come in?"

"You already have," he said, and smiled. "The latch told me."

She stepped closer. He could hear the faint clatter of buttons in a pocket, the breath of someone who had been running and was trying not to show it. He poured a second cup, then found her hands by the warmth of them and set the tea there.

"Have we met?" he asked.

"No," she said. "But you left the door open."

They sat without hurry, the kettle cooling between them, the forest leaning close to listen. And though Ruan could not see her face, he knew—by the way the room felt larger—that something long expected had arrived. They talked long into the night, sipping their tea.

-- 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