

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 16, 2025 10:30 a.m. Worship



"O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things."

--Psalm 98:1

First Presbyterian Church

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MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT: REV. BRIAN S. SYMONDS

COMMISSIONED LOCAL 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.

OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Sunday, December 7th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Jim Morris

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

"Praise is not just for joyous times; it is also for when we question and struggle, reflecting a realistic and honest relationship with God. They are not meant to be solitary; they require community. Praise is expressed through tangible rituals like baptism and communion, which connect people to God through things they can touch, taste, and feel. We cannot be Christians on our own, and need the church to be part of that practice."

-Rachel Held Evans

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Rhosymedre R. Vaughan-Williams (1872–1958)

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

*INTROIT

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation. With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory!

*CALL to WORSHIP

This is the day that the Lord has made;

✠ let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.

✠ And also with you.

Let us worship God!

*HYMN 353

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK

PRAYER of CONFESSION *(based on Psalm 32:5)*

The psalmist wrote, "Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and you forgave the guilt of my sin." Let us not hide our sins from God, but confess before God and one another, assured of God's gracious forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

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

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

(Take a moment to silently name your longing.)

- ✠ Gracious and loving God, we confess that we are troubled by the events of our lives and the state of this world. Headlines are full of wars, insurrections, suffering, earthquakes, famines, and death. These things are enough to shake our faith and undermine our confidence in your promise. Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. Deliver us from speculation that distracts us from faithful living and loving service. Forgive us when we doubt your promises. Help us to endure that we may gain our souls, always bearing witness to your love and grace in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

“For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God’s steadfast love toward those who fear him.”

- ✠ “As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our transgressions from us.”

Hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

- ✠ Thanks be to God!

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

***ALLELUIA**

William Zeitler

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Children are always welcome in worship. There is KidSpace today in Room 10 following the Time with the Children.]

ANTHEM

The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune¹ *R. Vaughn-Williams*

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice; Him serve with fear, his praise forth tell, come ye before him, and rejoice. The Lord, ye know, is God indeed, Without our aid he did us make; We are his folk, he doth us feed, And for his sheep he doth us take. O enter then his gates with praise, Approach with joy his courts unto; Praise, laud, and bless his name

¹ Text: W. Kethe (Daye’s Psalter, 1560-1). Music: R. Vaughn Williams. ©1953 Oxford University Press. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-7062545. All rights reserved..

always, For it is seemly so to do. For why? the Lord our God is good: his mercy is forever sure; His truth at all times firmly stood, And shall from age to age endure. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, The God whom heaven and earth adore, From mortals and the angel host Be praise and glory evermore.

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 98

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.
The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.
Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
the world and those who live in it.
Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Luke 21:5-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am He!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Troubled Past and
Future Possibilities* *Rev. Brian S. Symonds*

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 basket in front or give it to the usher. 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 351** *All Who Love and Serve Your City* CHARLESTOWN

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* MIT FREUDEN ZART

Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises, that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises. Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part: to God all praise and glory!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

POSTLUDE *Improvisation*

GREETER: Donna Feit, Doris Nord

USHERS: Al Rueda, *Lead Usher*

Mark Adelson, Dave Thomas, *Security Ushers*

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: Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann

Deacons: Chris Thomas, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda

This Weeks' Celebrations

Nov 18	Marion Wiens	Nov 20	David Dennis
	Ed & Stephani Congdon	Nov 21	Terry & Stephanie Ross
	Susan & William Zeitler	Nov 22	Ken Mantei
Nov 19	Earleen Dudley		
	Linda Murray		

Congregational Meeting. There will be a Congregational Meeting to elect new officers on **Sunday, November 16** immediately following worship.

Brandon Turner will receive his **Eagle Scout award** in a ceremony on **Saturday, November 22 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**. All are invited. Come support the creator of our lovely kitchen garden!

Thanksgiving Food Assistance. If you are a church member and you know of anyone who could use food assistance for Thanksgiving, there is a **sign-up sheet in the office** to get a Stater Bros. gift card provided by the Deacons.

SAVE YOUR BLOOD. Our second blood drive in association with Lifestream will be on **Sunday, November 30**. If you are a regular donor, a reminder: you can only give every 60 days. For those of us that are regular donors to Lifestream, please try to be here with an open arm. ***Remember your iron!*** Sign ups begin immediately after worship today in Fellowship Hall.

Deacon Fundraiser. The Deacons are having a fundraiser **next Tuesday, Nov 18th at Red Robin** at Citrus Grove to support the Food Closet. Please pick up a flyer in Fellowship Hall after worship. Spread the word to your family and friends and enjoy a meal out together. You will need the paper flyer (or one on your phone) in order for the Food Closet to receive its share.

Thank you for your generous support of our food participants. Thank you for your generous donations of shelf-stable foods. A suggestion list is available at reception, and on our website. We encourage bargain shopping since all donations can be put to good use. **Currently we would especially appreciate both regular & pop-top cans of fruit.**

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

In the village of Willowford, the bakery stood beside the old stone bridge, where the river bent like a cat curling up for a nap. Every morning before sunrise, Elias lit the ovens. His father had built them, and Elias had tended them all his life. His wife worked there too — humming as she kneaded dough. When illness took her, the joy left. But Elias' bread stayed warm and faithful.

Sam first came to Willowford as a scrawny boy with patched boots and a mother who was always desperate for work. A freak accident had taken his father and left him with a speech impediment. They were destitute. They slept wherever kindness allowed — barn loft, stable corner, empty shed. Some days there was food. Other days — not so much.

One bitter morning, long before the dawn bell rang, Sam drifted toward the bakery, drawn by the glow in the windows and the smell of rising dough. He wasn't begging. But he couldn't resist the call.

Elias noticed him through the steam-fogged glass. He opened the door and said, "Come in, lad, stand by the oven."

Sam stretched his hands toward the fire, feeling slowly returning to his fingers.

Elias cut a heel from a cooling loaf, slathered it with butter, and set it before him.

Sam devoured it.

When Elias asked his name, the boy's voice came in small, halting fragments. "Sam," he whispered. Then, after a long pause: "Sam and mother... c-c-cold and hungry."

Elias pretended not to notice the stumble. He wrapped the rest of the bread in linen and handed it to him.

"Give this to her," he said. "And remember: Every winter ends."

Sam nodded once, quick and shy, and hurried away.

He and his mother left Willowford the next day, following the harvest south. The villagers never noticed them. But Sam carried that morning with him, like a small lantern he never set down.

Years turned. Sam returned as a young man, broad-shouldered, still few of words, gathering unwanted scraps from the sawmill and selling them for firewood. He lived in a small hut near the mill. Elias saw him now and then, but didn't remember the hungry boy from long ago.

Then came the winter when the river froze. Snow fell for days. One evening, carrying a sack of flour up the stairs, Elias slipped and went down hard. Kneading dough, hauling wood, tending the ovens — out of the question. The next morning he tried using his wife's cane. By noon, he was exhausted, his ankle excruciating. He hung a sign on the door:

Closed for a time.

Word spread quickly. Villagers stopped at the window, pressed their hands to the glass, left notes of sympathy and encouragement. They said the village wasn't the same without his bread — without the warm smell drifting through the streets.

On the third morning, there came a knock at his door.

Opening it, he found Sam standing in the snow, a bundle of firewood under his arm.

"Sam help," he said.

Elias blinked. "Do you know anything about baking?"

Sam shook his head. "You show. Sam do."

Sam worked clumsily at first — burned his fingers, ruined a batch of dough, dropped a tray of rolls. The bread came out crooked, as if the dough had argued with itself all night. Still, the smell of baking crept through Willowford's lanes, and villagers lined up again for warm loaves and familiar comfort.

Every morning, Sam arrived before the dawn bell. He chopped kindling, fetched water, and kneaded dough until his arms trembled. When Elias apologized for being a burden, Sam only shook his head and kept working.

Weeks passed. Elias's ankle healed at last. One night, after the last loaf cooled, Elias studied the young man sweeping flour from the counter.

"You've helped more than I ever could have hoped," Elias said quietly. "Why, Sam?"

Sam set the broom aside. His voice was steady, plain, complete.

"You kind."

Elias frowned, searching his memory.

"When Sam a boy, you kind to Sam and mother."

Elias closed his eyes, remembering the hungry boy in the doorway. "I didn't know it mattered."

Sam nodded once. “It matter. Now Sam help you.”

When Elias could finally walk without the cane, he rose before dawn and baked a small loaf. Round and rosemary-scented, like the one from years ago. He wrapped it in linen and handed it to Sam at the door.

“For you,” Elias said.

Sam bowed, took the loaf, and stepped into the morning light. His boots crunched through the crusted snow as he returned to his hut by the sawmill.

-- 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.