



FIRST 
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Twenty-Eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Sunday, October 15, 2023
10:30 A.M.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice in the Lord always!

All thanks and praise to God!

Do not worry about anything.

We trust in God who provides for us.

Let the peace of God settle among you.

We will share God's peace with all.

*OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, in Jesus Christ you do not call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Draw us away from the easy road that leads to destruction, and guide us into paths that lead to life abundant, that in seeking your truth, and obeying your will, we may know the joy of being a disciple of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

*HYMN 804

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

MARION

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Stephanie Dube

May God be with you in worship here.

May God be with you in worship there.

Children may depart the sanctuary with their teacher for Worship & Wonder. They will return to the sanctuary before communion.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

From ancient times to now, God's people have turned away. We are no different: we let fear take hold of us and try to go our own way. Let us be honest about how we have failed to follow God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

True God from True God, we have not built a golden calf, but we have worshiped idols. We have put our trust in what we build with our own hands. We find security in what we can hoard instead of trusting your provision. We listen to lies that spread hatred and division instead of the radical truth of your word. Forgive us. Melt down our idols until we see only you and fix our sight on your way alone.

Silence is kept.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Phil 4:8-9

God shows us a different way—a way of truth, honor, justice, purity, and excellence. The path is open to all of us if we reach out and accept God's forgiveness.

Thanks be to God! We will live as God's people forgiven and freed.

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 465)

CONVERSE

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

**O what peace we often forfeit; O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.**

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ps. 19:7-8

Sovereign God, let your Word rule in our hearts and your Spirit govern our lives until at last we see the fulfillment of your realm of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Philippians 3:4b-14 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Exodus 32:1-14 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“The Waiting is the Hardest Part”

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

He Never Failed Me Yet

Robert Ray

Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out, He never failed me yet.

*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sung by all:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest! *The prayer continues.*

THE 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. Ushers will guide you forward to partake by taking a small piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Prepackaged gluten-free elements are available in the baskets near the communion stations. Servers will come to those who prefer to remain in their seats.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *adapted from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, Northern Ireland*

Holy God, we give thanks for the faith, hope, and love of this family of faith. Renew our church so that we may be a place of grace for all, a place of growth for the young, a place of refreshment for the old, a place of renewal for families, a place of healing for the broken, a place of joy for the sorrowful, a place of forgiveness for the sinner, a place of strength for the virtuous and a place of welcome for those who have been away. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, in union with the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 775

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

WALK WITH ME

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry* | Liturgist: *Patrick Corkran*

Communion Servers: *Larry Hale & Marilyn Van Winkle* | Worship & Wonder: *Andi Wallace*

Substitute Organist: *Jeff Moles*

The Life of the Church

The Annual FPC Fall Festival is coming up Sunday evening, October 29! From 4-5pm we will have Trunk or Treating, the bounce house, games, and activities. At 5:00, we will move into the Fellowship Hall for our Chili Cookoff, where we will crown the 2023 FPC Chili Champion! Here are some ways you can help us make this a great community event:

- Contribute a cake or dessert to be used for prizes
- Host a trunk or treat station
- Make a crockpot of chili
- Bring a “spooky” side dish to go with the chili

You can sign up to help on the sheets located in the hallway near the Clinton Place entrance.

The PrimeTimers will meet this Tuesday, October 17 at noon at Gene and Mary Dixon Baker’s home, 1901 Winston Drive. Meat will be provided. Please bring a salad, veggie, or dessert.

Hearing Assistance Devices are available. Please see an usher if you would like to use one.





First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.



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Rev. Matt Curry, Pastor
Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission
Stephanie Dube, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music
Tyler Simpson, Organist
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant
Dylan Schroader, Custodian
Emmy Voyles, Nursery Care Provider