



Jonah Under the Vine, from the Menologion of Basil II, c.1000

FIRST 
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Sunday, September 25, 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

Whether we embrace God's call in our lives or try to avoid it,

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Whether we are longtimers or latecomers in the life of faith,

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable or bring hardship,

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

We praise God's name forever and ever!

*OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you created the heavens and the earth, and humankind in your image.

Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and to serve you with reverence and

thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the

unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 301

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Matt Curry

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

Phil. 1:27

Because we do not always live our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, we confess before God and one another our sins and shortcomings. In repentance, let us turn toward God's grace and mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ps. 145, Jonah 3:10-4:11, Matt. 20:1-16

God of abundant goodness, we confess that we want your grace for ourselves but often wish punishment or exclusion on others. We judge the motives of others while ignoring the faults of our own. Forgive us, we pray, when we let jealousy overtake us. Forgive us, we pray, when we are petty even in the presence of your generosity. Forgive us, we pray, when we feel slighted by you. We ask once again for your mercy. Help us to be more merciful toward one another. We pray in the name of Christ Jesus, by whose grace we are saved.

Silence is kept.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God extends to us mercy beyond our deserving, grace beyond our ability to earn it. **God has granted us the privilege of believing in Christ; therefore we will live as grateful and forgiven people! Thanks be to God!**

*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.**

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.**

**The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, your Word surprises, challenges, upsets, and overturns our way of seeing and thinking. Come and find us today wherever we are, however we are. By the power of your Holy Spirit, cause that which is withering in us to blossom and that which is exacting in us to broaden until we see as you see, and thereby glimpse the kingdom you are bringing. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 20:1-16 The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

Psalm 23 *"The Bird's Song" from Pilgrim's Progress* R. Vaughan Williams
Ginny Weant, Soprano

Jonah 3:10-4:11 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Worst Sermon Ever"

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Confession of 1967

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for humanity when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. The

new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand except God's grace.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Zion's Walls

Aaron Copland

Come fathers and mothers, come sisters and brothers,
come join us in singing the praises of Zion.

*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

God of grace, you invite us to your table and welcome us as part of your family. You feed us with your body and satisfy our deepest hunger. We thank you for these gifts. Now send us out into the world by the power of your Spirit that we may be your witnesses, sharing the life-giving news of the gospel. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Jeremy Brailsford*

Communion Servers: *Suzanne Guyer & Debbie Hutchinson*

Worship & Wonder: *Stephanie Dube*

The Life of the Church

Youth Group will officially kick off the year with a parent meeting this evening at 5:00pm. In October, we will begin a new schedule of meeting on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Middle school youth will meet 4:00-6:00 and high school youth will meet 5:00-7:00.

Mission Committee meets following worship today in the parlor.

World Communion Sunday is next week, October 1. In worship, we will celebrate, through music and liturgy, our connection with Christians around the world.

The Peace and Global Witness Offering will be taken on World Communion Sunday. This offering supports worldwide Presbyterian ministries of peace and reconciliation. Our congregation retains 25% of the offering to support local peacemaking efforts. The Mission Committee has selected Oasis as this year's recipient. Oasis provides shelter and services to victims of domestic violence in our community. Andrea Robinson, their executive director, will be with us to offer a minute for mission and talk more about their mission following worship.

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



Blessed are the
peacemakers,
for they will be called
the children of God.

MATTHEW 5:9

 PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

SEPTEMBER 3–OCTOBER 1, 2023



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