



Mural from 1968 Resurrection City encampment on the National Mall, Washington, DC; National Museum of African-American History and Culture

FIRST   
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Twenty-Third Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Sunday, September 5, 2021  
10:30 A.M.

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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## THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 146, selected verses*

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

**who executes justice for the oppressed;**

**who gives food to the hungry.**

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

**the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.**

**The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow.**

The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

**Praise the LORD!**

\*OPENING PRAYER

Direct and help us, O Lord, in all our deeds, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

\*HYMN 744

*Arise, Your Light is Come!*

FESTAL SONG

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Jeff Moles

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

It is only by the power of God that we are able to stand against evil. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**You love us with open arms, O God. Forgive us when we do not put your love into practice: when we do not challenge the injustice around us; when we are not generous with the gifts we have to share; when we are slow to compassion and quick to judgment; when we contribute to the brokenness of the world instead of helping to make it whole. Forgive us, O God, of the ways we fall short. Free us to try again, and let your love lead the way.**

*Silence is kept for personal confession.*

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Desmond Tutu*

Goodness is stronger than evil. Love is stronger than hate. Light is stronger than darkness. Life is stronger than death. Victory is ours through God who loves us. In Jesus Christ, we are loved and befriended by God. **Amen.**

\*GLORIA PATRI

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 749)

*Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.  
We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;  
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.*

*Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love  
We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;  
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.*

## THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23      The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

James 2:1-10, 14-17              The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Do We Really Believe?”

Rev. Matt Curry

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*from the Confession of Belhar*

**We believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and nourishes the Church from the beginning of the world to the end. We**

believe that God wants to bring about true justice and lasting peace on earth; we believe that God is, in a special sense, the God of the suffering, the poor, and the downtrodden. We praise God who gives justice to the oppressed and bread to the hungry; who sets captives free and makes the blind to see; who protects strangers, orphans, and widows and obstructs the plans of the wicked. We believe that the Church belongs to God and that it should stand where God stands: against injustice and with those who are wronged. We are called to confess and to do all this in obedience to Jesus Christ, our only Lord, even if authorities or laws oppose this, even if punishment and suffering may be the consequence. Jesus is Lord! We will follow Him!

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Legacy Giving

Patti Price

## THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

*How Beautiful Upon the Mountains*

John Carter

\*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:  
*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 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

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world – because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.**

#### THE SENDING

\*HYMN 100

*Canticle of the Turning*

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

#### LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Janice Odom*

Communion Servers: *Tom & Susan Furlong*

## The Life of the Church

**Legacy Giving** will be a focus of Sunday, September 12. Rev. Dr. Craig Howard of the Presbyterian Foundation will join us as our guest preacher and will lead a program over lunch following worship about various ways we can make the church part of our planned giving.

**A Study of Mark's Gospel** will be led by Pastor Matt on Zoom at 6:00pm on Wednesdays beginning September 8.

**Service Worship Sunday** will be held September 26. This is a day when we will take our worship outside the walls of the sanctuary through service opportunities. We will have sign-ups for different projects available next week.

**The Annual FPC Golf Scramble** at Ben Hawes will be Sunday, September 26 beginning at 12:10. Dinner will follow at Longhorn's. Contact Patti Price, 270-314-6099, for more information.





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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Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission  
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music  
Patrick Ritsch, Organist  
Stephanie Dube, Director of Youth Ministries & Weekday School  
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant  
Staci Estes Horn, Financial Secretary  
David Ambs, Custodian