

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 6, 2026 at 10 am

"Christ suffered for our sins once for all time.

He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God." (1 Peter 3:18)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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HYMN #150: *COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN TO SING*

Come, Christians, join to sing
Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King;
Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice,
Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice;
Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high;
Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky;
Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend;
To us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end;
Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again;
Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain;
Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's joyful shore
His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore,
"Alleluia! Amen!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION AND THE WORLD

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

We gather in the name of Jesus Christ,
who loved us and gave himself for us.

We come to worship the one
who gave his life for the life of the world.

At the cross,
we see the depth of God's love and the seriousness of our sin.

At the cross,
we see mercy stronger than our failure and grace greater than our guilt.

And today, as we remember Christ's death and come to his table,
let us lift our hearts in gratitude.

For Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Come, let us worship God,
who in Christ has reconciled us to himself.

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HYMN #138: *HOLY, HOLY, HOLY*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

CHOIR: *WALKING IN SUNLIGHT*

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"Why Did Jesus Have to Die?"*

Mark 10:32–34

Jesus and the disciples were now on the way up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. The disciples were filled with awe, and the people following behind were overwhelmed with fear. Taking the twelve disciples aside, Jesus once more began to describe everything that was about to happen to him. ³³ "Listen," he said, "we're going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die and hand him over to the Romans. ³⁴ They will mock him, spit on him, flog him with a whip, and kill him, but after three days he will rise again."

Mark 10:45

"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

John 10:17–18

“The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. ¹⁸ No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.”

Isaiah 53:2–6, 10–11

My servant grew up in the LORD’s presence like a tender green shoot,
like a root in dry ground. . . .

³ He was despised and rejected—
a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.

We turned our backs on him and looked the other way.
He was despised, and we did not care.

⁴ Yet it was our weaknesses he carried;
it was our sorrows that weighed him down.

And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God,
a punishment for his own sins!

⁵ But he was pierced for our rebellion,
crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole.
He was whipped so we could be healed.

⁶ All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.
We have left God’s paths to follow our own.

Yet the LORD laid on him
the sins of us all. . . .

¹⁰ But it was the LORD’s good plan to crush him
and cause him grief.

Yet when his life is made an offering for sin,
he will have many descendants. . . .
for he will bear all their sins.

*

THE POWER OF THE CROSS

Oh to see the dawn, of the darkest day,
Christ on the road to Calvary;
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then,
Nailed to a cross of wood.

*This the pow’r of the cross;
Christ became sin for us,
Took the blame, bore the wrath,
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh to see the pain, written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin;
Ev’ry bitter thought, ev’ry evil deed,
Crowning Your bloodstained brow. *[Refrain]*

Oh to see my name, written in the wounds,
 For through Your suff'ring I am free;
 Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
 Won through Your selfless love.

*This the pow'r of the cross;
 Son of God, slain for us,
 What a love, what a cost,
 We stand forgiven at the cross.*

*"This the Power of the Cross," by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.
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RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

*The metal basket in the offering plate is for gifts to support
 our deacons' provision of care, support, and financial assistance to those in need.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(You are invited to join in unison with the pastor, or to follow along in silence)

Merciful God, we come to your table once again,
 and if we're honest, familiarity has sometimes dulled its wonder in us.

We too easily take your grace for granted,
 receiving the bread and the cup with hands more accustomed than awed.

We confess that our hearts have grown comfortable
 with a gospel that cost your Son His life:
 we're quick to receive it, and too often slow to be changed by it.

When this holy meal has become merely a habit, forgive us.

When we come with unconfessed grudges,
 unrepented pride, or unexamined hearts, have mercy on us.

Strip away our complacency, Lord,
 and give us again the wonder of those who know what this bread and cup cost.
 We pray in the name of Christ, who was broken for us. Amen.

After corporate prayer we will have a few moments of silence for personal confession.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Our practice is to eat the bread individually as it is distributed,
 and to hold onto the cup until all have received it, and then partake of it in unison.*

Our communion bread is gluten-free.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Passing the Peace: "May the peace of Christ be with you"

Communion

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

*I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,*

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
 he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
 he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
 from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church;
 the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
 the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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HYMN #85: *WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
 What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
 To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
 To bear the heavy cross for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
 To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
 While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
 While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
 And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
 And through eternity I'll sing on.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Tuesday, Sept. 8	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Wednesday, Sept. 9	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Thursday, Sept. 10	Session (7:00 pm)
Sunday, Sept. 13	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary) Potluck (after the service)

Next week we begin a new series of messages on the book of Acts. As we go through Acts we're going to learn the founding stories of our faith, and the way the church began to fulfill Jesus' mission to take the good news "into all the world."

Church Financial Update (through August)

Actual Expenses to Date: \$ 144,325 ☞ Giving to Date: \$ 113,427

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our church and its mission!

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First Presbyterian Church of Aberdeen

420 N Broadway, Aberdeen, WA 98520

Pastor Chuck Guth: 847.800.7119 (cell) / chuck@aberdeenpres.org

Church Office: 360.532.1330 / office@aberdeenpres.org

Office Hours: 12 pm – 4 pm (Wednesday – Friday)

aberdeenpres.org