

Worship at First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, October 20, 2024 at 10 am

*"The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (Deuteronomy 31:8)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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I WILL SING OF THE MERCIES OF THE LORD

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing. I will sing.
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

With my mouth will I make known
Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness.
With my mouth will I make known,
Thy faithfulness to all generations.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing. I will sing.
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

*"I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord" by James Henry Fillmore Sr.,
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

I will sing of the LORD's unfailing love forever!
Young and old will hear of your faithfulness.

Your unfailing love will last forever.
Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens.

All heaven will praise your great wonders, LORD;
myriads of angels will praise you for your faithfulness.

O LORD God of Heaven's Armies!
Where is there anyone as mighty as you, O LORD?
You are entirely faithful.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.
Unfailing love and truth walk before you as attendants.

Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship,
for they will walk in the light of your presence, LORD.

**They rejoice all day long in your wonderful reputation.
They exult in your righteousness.
You are their glorious strength.**

Praise the LORD forever!
Amen and amen!

Psalm 89:1-2, 5, 8, 14-17, 52.

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THE LOVE OF GOD

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.

*O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
the saints and angels song.*

When years of time shall pass away and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
When men, who here refuse to pray, on rocks and hills and mountains call,
God's love so sure shall still endure, all measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race—the saints and angels song. *[Refrain]*

Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill and every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky. *[Refrain]*

*"The Love of God" by Frederick Martin Lehman and Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai.
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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

**Great God our Father:
You are good and strong; you are faithful and true.
You love us with an everlasting love and will never abandon us,
living with and within us by Your Holy Spirit.**

**Yet, we so easily trade your truth for a lie;
we substitute our lusts for Your love.
We close our eyes to the truth about who we are;
we run from the truth of who You are.**

**Forgive us for too often choosing to love and live for the world:
by following our own cravings,
by giving into the lust of our eyes,
by boasting of who we are, what we've done, and what we've got.**

Now hear our personal and silent confessions of sin

CHOIR

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"The Promise of God's Everlasting Love"*

Romans 8:31-39

What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³² Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? ³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

BEHOLD WHAT MANNER OF LOVE

Behold what manner of love
The Father has given unto us;
Behold what manner of love
The Father has given unto us:

That we should be called
The children of God;
That we should be called
The children of God.

(Sing through twice)

"Behold What Manner of Love" by Patricia Van Tine.

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WE RESPOND 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.*

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DOXOLOGY

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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O THE DEEP, DEEP LOVE OF JESUS

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
 Vast unmeasured boundless free;
 Rolling as a mighty ocean
 In its fullness over me.
 Underneath me all around me,
 Is the current of Thy love;
 Leading onward leading homeward,
 To my glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
 Spread His praise from shore to shore.
 How He loveth ever loveth,
 Changeth never nevermore.
 How He watches o'er His loved ones,
 Died to call them all His own;
 How for them He intercedeth,
 Watches over them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
 Love of every love the best;
 'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
 'Tis a haven sweet of rest.
 O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
 'Tis a heaven of heavens to me;
 And it lifts me up to glory,
 For it lifts me up to Thee.

"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" by Samuel Trevor Francis and Thomas John Williams.
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BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE**

CALENDAR

TODAY	Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary) Youth Group: Pumpkin Patch and Carving (1:30 – 6)
Tuesday, Oct. 22	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Wednesday, Oct. 23	Quilting Group (10:30 – 2:30)
Sunday, Oct. 27	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
LOOKING AHEAD	Oct. 30, Soup and Study: <i>From Manuscript to Translations</i> Coffee and Study (1:00 pm) Soup and Study (6:00 pm) Oct. 31, Halloween “Coffee for Parents” (5:00–8:00) Nov. 2, Spaghetti Dinner/Craft Fair Fundraiser (5:00–7:00)

Chuck will be on vacation this coming week (Monday, Oct. 21 – Sunday, Oct. 27). He will be available in event of emergencies; otherwise please call Aries Light, and she will communicate with Chuck as necessary. Next week Martha Greene, from University Park Presbyterian Church, will be leading our service. Thanks.

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