

# *Worship at First Presbyterian Church*

*Sunday, July 27, 2025 at 10 am*

*"The Levites . . . read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage." (Nehemiah 8:7-8)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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*THY WORD*

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*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path;  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path.*

When I feel afraid  
And I think I've lost my way  
Still You're there right beside me  
Nothing will I fear  
As long as You are near  
Please be near me to the end. *[Refrain]*

I will not forget  
Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering  
Jesus be my guide  
And hold me to Your side  
I will love You to the end. *[Refrain]*

*"Thy Word" by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith.  
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

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Oh Lord, your Word is a wonder  
and we follow in delight.  
Your revelation is a shining light,  
giving understanding to the simple.

Our mouths are dry and we thirst,  
yearning for your wisdom.

**We have tried to find you—**  
don't let us wander from your commands.

We will study your commandments and reflect on your ways.  
We will delight in your decrees and not forget your word.

Let us worship our Lord who reveals himself and his ways to us.  
Come let us adore him!

*Inspired by verses and themes in Psalm 119.*

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## HYMN #276: GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
 There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
 Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;  
 As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness!*

*Great is Thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
 All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
 Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
 Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
 Join with all nature in manifold witness  
 To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *[Refrain]*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
 Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
 Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
 Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *[Refrain]*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Our Eternal Lord and King,  
 Your Son died and was raised up in power.  
 Enable us to die to our sin in repentance  
 so we may live in new and transformed lives as his disciples.

We confess that:  
 though your word should guide us, we inform ourselves;  
 though you should rule us, we control ourselves;  
**though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves.**  
 We think your truth too high, your will too hard,  
 your power too remote, your love too free.

Heal our confused minds with your word,  
 heal our divided wills with your law,  
 heal our troubled consciences with your love,  
 heal our anxious hearts with your presence,  
 all for the sake of your Son,  
 who loved us and gave himself for us.

Hear now, our silent prayers . . .

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

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## SPEAK, O LORD

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Speak, O Lord as we come to You  
 To receive the food of Your holy word;  
 Take Your truth plant it deep in us  
 Shape and fashion us in Your likeness.  
 That the light of Christ might be seen today  
 In our acts of love and our deeds of faith;  
 Speak, O Lord and fulfill in us  
 All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord full obedience,  
 Holy reverence true humility;  
 Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
 In the radiance of Your purity.  
 Cause our faith to rise;  
 Cause our eyes to see  
 Your majestic love and authority;  
 Words of power that can never fail,  
 Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord and renew our minds;  
 Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.  
 Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,  
 That will echo down through eternity.  
 And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;  
 And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
 Speak, O Lord till Your church is built,  
 And the earth is filled with Your glory.

*"Speak, O Lord," by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.  
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## READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

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Sermon: *"Why Do We Have Different Bible Translations?"*

Nehemiah 8:1–8

In October all the people assembled with a unified purpose at the square just inside the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had given for Israel to obey.

<sup>2</sup> So on October 8 Ezra the priest brought the Book of the Law before the assembly, which included the men and women and all the children old enough to understand. <sup>3</sup> He faced the square just inside the Water Gate from early morning until noon and read aloud to everyone who could understand. All the people listened closely to the Book of the Law.

<sup>4</sup> Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform that had been made for the occasion. To his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiyah, and Maaseiah. To his left stood Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam. <sup>5</sup> Ezra stood on the platform in full view of all the people. When they saw him open the book, they all rose to their feet.

<sup>6</sup> Then Ezra praised the LORD, the great God, and all the people chanted, "Amen! Amen!" as they lifted their hands. Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

<sup>7</sup> The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and Pelaiah—then instructed the people in the Law while everyone remained in their places. <sup>8</sup> They read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage.

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## RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

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*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

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

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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## MAY THE MIND OF CHRIST MY SAVIOR

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May the mind of Christ, my Savior,  
Live in me from day to day,  
By His love and pow'r controlling  
All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly  
In my heart from hour to hour,  
So that all may see I triumph  
Only through His pow'r.

May the peace of God, my Father,  
Rule my life in everything,  
That I may be calm to comfort  
Sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me  
As the waters fill the sea.  
Him exalting, self-abasing:  
This is victory.

May we run the race before us,  
Strong and brave to face the foe,  
Looking only unto Jesus  
As we onward go.

*"May The Mind of Christ My Savior," by Kate Barclay Wilkinson  
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## BENEDICTION and POSTLUDE

## CALENDAR

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| TODAY              | Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)   |
| Tuesday, July 29   | Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)   |
| Wednesday, July 30 | Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)   |
| Thursday, July 31  | Naloxone Opioid Overdose Training (7:00–7:45)                                     |
| Sunday, August 3   | Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary)                            |
| LOOKING AHEAD      | Tuesday, August 5:<br>National Night Out BBQ Picnic/Community Welcome (6:00–7:30) |
|                    | Wednesday, August 13:<br>Lawn Concert with the Don Stone Trio (6:30–8:00)         |

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