

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 20, 2026 at 10 am

*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses,
telling people about me everywhere—
in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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HYMN #333: *SEEK YE FIRST*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
And His righteousness;
And all these things
Shall be added unto you:
Allelu, alleluia.

Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by ev'ry word
That proceeds
From the mouth of God:
Allelu, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you;
Seek and ye shall find;
Knock and the door
Shall be opened unto you:
Allelu, alleluia.
Allelu, alleluia.

"Seek Ye First" by Karen Lafferty.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

There are times when we know what God has promised,
but not yet how the promise will unfold.

Still, we come with faith.

There are times when the way ahead is uncertain,
and we cannot see very far.

Still, we come with hope.

There are times when God asks us to begin before we have every answer.

Still, we come ready to listen and to follow.

The God who has been faithful in the past is faithful today.

Let's worship our Triune God—
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—with expectant hearts.

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 HYMN #482: PRAISE YE THE LORD

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
 O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
 All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
 Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
 Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
 Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been
 Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
 All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
 Let the Amen sound from His people again,
 Gladly for aye we adore Him.

 PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Gracious God, we confess that we often want your promises
 without the waiting that accompanies them.
 We want to know what lies ahead before we take the next step.
 We want certainty before trust, answers before obedience,
 and results before faithfulness.

Forgive us when our impatience becomes distrust.
 Forgive us when uncertainty makes us retreat rather than listen.
 Forgive us when we become so focused on what we cannot see
 that we overlook what you have already placed before us.

Teach us to trust you in the spaces between promise and fulfillment.

Give us patience to wait, courage to begin,
 and faith to believe that you are at work
 even when we cannot yet see the whole picture.

Now, Lord, we bring our individual and personal confession to you . . .

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

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 CHRIST OUR HOPE IN LIFE AND DEATH

What is our hope in life and death
 Christ alone Christ alone
 What is our only confidence
 That our souls to Him belong
 Who holds our days within His hand
 What comes apart from His command
 And what will keep us to the end
 The love of Christ in which we stand.

*O sing hallelujah
 Our hope springs eternal
 O sing hallelujah*

*Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death.*

What truth can calm the troubled soul
God is good God is good
Where is His grace and goodness known
In our great Redeemer's blood
Who holds our faith when fears arise
Who stands above the stormy trial
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore the rock of Christ. *[Refrain]*

Unto the grave what will we sing
Christ He lives Christ He lives
And what reward will heaven bring
Everlasting life with Him
There we will rise to meet the Lord
Then sin and death will be destroyed
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore. *[Refrain]*

"Christ Our Hope in Life and Death"

*by Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, and Matthew Merker,
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READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"A Promise, a Mission . . . and Waiting"*

Acts 1:1–26

In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach² until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit.³ During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

⁴ Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before."⁵ John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"

⁷ He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know."⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him.¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them.¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. ¹³ When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying.

Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the zealot), and Judas (son of James). ¹⁴ They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.

¹⁵ During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them. ¹⁶ “Brothers,” he said, “the Scriptures had to be fulfilled concerning Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. This was predicted long ago by the Holy Spirit, speaking through King David. ¹⁷ Judas was one of us and shared in the ministry with us.”

¹⁸ (Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines. ¹⁹ The news of his death spread to all the people of Jerusalem, and they gave the place the Aramaic name Akeldama, which means “Field of Blood.”)

²⁰ Peter continued, “This was written in the book of Psalms, where it says, ‘Let his home become desolate, with no one living in it.’ It also says, ‘Let someone else take his position.’

²¹ “So now we must choose a replacement for Judas from among the men who were with us the entire time we were traveling with the Lord Jesus—²² from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus’ resurrection.”

²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they all prayed, “O Lord, you know every heart. Show us which of these men you have chosen ²⁵ as an apostle to replace Judas in this ministry, for he has deserted us and gone where he belongs.” ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and Matthias was selected to become an apostle with the other eleven.

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.*

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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 Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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HYMN #40: *JOY TO THE WORLD*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Tuesday, Sept 22	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Wednesday, Sept 23	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Sunday, Sept 27	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
LOOKING AHEAD	October 21 – November 18: Coffee/Soup and Study (Wed. study series, 1:00/6:00 pm) <i>The Goodness of God: Learning to Notice God's Grace</i> Friday, October 31, 5:00–8:00: Halloween “Coffee for Parents” Saturday, November 7, 5:00–7:00: Spaghetti Dinner/Craft Fair Fundraiser

Our mid-week Coffee and Study/Soup and Study series are a chance for a more casual get together to be encouraged in our following Jesus, and to grow as followers of Jesus. We meet on Wednesdays at either 1:00 for coffee and cookies, or at 6:00 for a soup-based meal followed by our practical, discussion-based study. We have a great time together. Our Fall series starts on October 21; plan now to join us!

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