Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 8, 2026 at 10 am

"Even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased him to reveal his Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles." (Galatians 1:15-16)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

* *'TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS*

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *[Refrain]*

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *[Refrain]*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Listen to our voice this morning, LORD.
Each morning we bring our requests to you and wait expectantly.

Because of your unfailing love, we can enter your house;
we worship you with deepest awe.

Lead us in the right path, O LORD,
Make your way plain for us to follow.

Spread your protection over us,
that all who love your name may be filled with joy.

You bless the godly, O LORD;
you surround us with your shield of love—
and so we come, today, to worship you.

Based on Psalm 5:3, 7–8, 12.

* *HERE IS LOVE, VAST AS THE OCEAN*

Here is love vast as the ocean,
Loving kindness as the flood;
When the Prince of Life, our ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He will never be forgotten,
Throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide,
Through the floodgates of God's mercy,
Flowed a vast and gracious tide;
Grace and love like mighty rivers
Poured incessant from above,
Heaven's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Let me all your love accepting,
Love you ever, all my days;
Let me seek your kingdom only
And my life be to your praise;
You alone will be my glory,
Nothing in the world I see;
You have cleansed and sanctified me,
You have loved and set me free.

In your truth you will direct me
By your Spirit, thru' your Word;
And your grace my need is meeting,
As I trust in you, my Lord.
All your fulness you are pouring
From your endless wells above,
Without measure, full and boundless
As I yield myself in love.

"Here is Love" by William Rees, William Williams, William Edwards; Music by Robert Lowry.
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PRAYER OF CONFESSION *AND* ASSURANCE OF PARDON
(You are invited to join in unison with the pastor, or to follow along in silence)

Lord God, we find it hard to be what we are called to be—
followers and imitators of Jesus in all of life.

Sometimes you call us but we do not always hear.
Sometimes your word comes to us in unexpected ways.
Sometimes we mistake your voice for something else.
Sometimes we just don't want to listen.
Sometimes we do not trust that your ways are good.

Sometimes it's easier to look out for ourselves than to love others.
Sometimes we actively choose to do what we know is wrong.

Forgive us Lord, and open our ears to your word.

Sometimes we are embarrassed to be called your people.
Sometimes we fear others' judgement more than we fear you.
Sometimes we feel as though your good news
isn't something everyone needs to hear.

Forgive us Lord, and open our mouths to proclaim your praise.

Holy Spirit, reignite in our hearts once more
the Father's flame of love.
Call us again to the cross of Jesus
and make our lives new with his.

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

CHOIR

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"Who Is This Paul Guy? The Making of the Apostle of Grace"*

Philippians 3:5–11

I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel
and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a
member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. 6 I
was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I
obeyed the law without fault.

7 I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them
worthless because of what Christ has done. 8 Yes, everything else is worthless when
compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I
have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ 9
and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through
obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of
making us right with himself depends on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and
experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with
him, sharing in his death, 11 so that one way or another I will experience the
resurrection from the dead!

Galatians 1:13–24

You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently
persecuted God's church. I did my best to destroy it. 14 I was far ahead of my fellow
Jews in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors.

15 But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous
grace. Then it pleased him 16 to reveal his Son to me so that I would proclaim the
Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles.

When this happened, I did not rush out to consult with any human being. 17
Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to consult with those who were apostles before I was.

Instead, I went away into Arabia, and later I returned to the city of Damascus.
18 Then three years later I went to Jerusalem to get to know Peter, and I stayed with
him for fifteen days. 19 The only other apostle I met at that time was James, the
Lord's brother. 20 I declare before God that what I am writing to you is not a lie.

21 After that visit I went north into the provinces of Syria and Cilicia. 22 And
still the churches in Christ that are in Judea didn't know me personally. 23 All they
knew was that people were saying, "The one who used to persecute us is now
preaching the very faith he tried to destroy!" 24 And they praised God because of me.

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.

* *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

* HYMN #420: *GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY (verses 1–3, 5)*

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient Church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways.
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Tuesday, Nov. 10	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Wednesday, Nov. 11	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30) Coffee and Study (1:00–2:00) Soup and Study (6:00–7:45) *The Goodness of God* (Week 4: *Receiving God's Goodness*)
Thursday, Nov. 12	Session (7:00 pm)
Saturday, Nov. 14	Creation Station (11:00–1:00)
Sunday, Nov. 15	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
LOOKING AHEAD	November 18: Coffee/Soup and Study (Wed. study series, 1:00/6:00 pm) *The Goodness of God: God Is Good When Life Isn't* Sunday, November 22: *Thanksgiving Potluck*

Helping Hands is our deacon's ministry to provide household assistance to members of our congregation (and those who attend our church). If you need assistance, please contact Brian Krohn (360-580-1683). And, if you would like to be part of Helping Hands, talk to Brian as well.

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