Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 15, 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 and ANNOUNCEMENTS

* *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 twice)*

"Behold What Manner of Love" by Patricia Van Tine.
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PASSING THE PEACE and PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

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.

You are our refuge and our shield; your word is our source of hope.

We rejoice in your word like one who discovers a great treasure.

Let our tongues sing about your word, for all your commands are right.

Reveal yourself to us, O Lord,
and accept now our worship, and our offering of praise.

Based on verses from Psalm 119.

* *ANCIENT WORDS*

Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart,
O let the ancient words impart.

Words of life, words of hope,
Give us strength, help us cope.
In this world where'er we roam,
Ancient words will guide us home.

Ancient words, ever true,
Changing me and changing you.
We have come with open hearts,
O let the ancient words impart.

Holy words of our faith,
Handed down to this age,
Came to us through sacrifice.
O heed the faithful words of Christ.

Holy words long preserved,
for our walk in this world,
they resound with God's own heart.
O let the ancient words impart. *[Refrain, twice]*

"Ancient Words" by Lynn DeShazo.
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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)

Holy God,
you gave us your Word to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path,
yet we too often leave it closed.
We let other voices (the news, or YouTube, or social media) fill our days
and let your voice fade to a whisper.
We confess that we are hungry for many things, but too seldom for you.
Forgive us for not prioritizing your Word in our lives,
for reading it without listening,
and for those times when we listen without letting its words change us.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.
We have gone astray like sheep, each to our own way.
We have loved you with part of our hearts,
and our neighbors only when it was easy.
What we have done and what we have left undone,
we lay before you.

Forgive us in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
and make us hearers who are also doers,
for the sake of your name. Amen.

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

* *'TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS*

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
and to take him at his word;
just to rest upon his promise,
and to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him more!

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to trust his cleansing blood;
and in simple faith to plunge me
neath the healing, cleansing flood! *[Refrain]*

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
just from sin and self to cease;
just from Jesus simply taking
life and rest, and joy and peace. *[Refrain]*

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end. *[Refrain]*

"'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" by Louisa M. R. Stead and William James Kirkpatrick.
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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

* *GRACE GREATER THAN ALL OUR SIN*

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured—
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin!

Sin and despair, like the sea-waves cold,
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater—yes, grace untold—
Points to the Refuge, the mighty Cross. *[Refrain]*

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
Freely bestowed on all who believe!
All who are longing to see His face,
Will you this moment His grace receive? *[Refrain]*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Tuesday, Nov. 17	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30) Worship at Channel Point (10:30) Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
Wednesday, Nov. 18	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 5: *Becoming God because God Is Good*)
Thursday, Nov. 19	Session (7:00 pm)
Sunday, Nov. 22	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary) *Thanksgiving Potluck (after the service)*
LOOKING AHEAD	Greening of the Sanctuary: Saturday, December 5 (9:00 – 12:00) Christmas Open House (6:30 – 8:00) Advent Series: *The God Who Comes Close* (four Sundays of Advent)

The church is often called a "gathered community"—gathering to be with one another and to worship with one another. And those two emphases shape our worship service. We begin with time as God's people, God's family—sharing what's happening in our church and praying for one another. Then, with the *Call to Worship*, we shift our focus toward God, expressing our awe, reverence, and thanksgiving to God in our singing, our prayers, and our hearing of God's Word. Thank you for your presence with us today.

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