Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 1, 2026 at 10 am

"I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners,
Christ Jesus might display his immense patience
as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life." (1 Timothy 1:16)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

* 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION AND THE WORLD

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Praise the LORD, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

He forgives all our sins
and heals all our diseases.

He redeems us from death
and crowns us with love and tender mercies.

He fills our lives with good things.
Our youth is renewed like the eagle's!

The LORD is compassionate and merciful,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

His unfailing love toward those who fear him
is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.

He has removed our sins as far from us
as the east is from the west.

But the love of the LORD remains forever
with those who fear him.

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Based on Psalm 103:1–5, 8, 11–12, 17.

* HYMN #140: *HOLY, HOLY*

Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy,
Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty;
And we lift our hearts before You as a token of our love,
Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy.

Gracious Father, Gracious Father,
We're so blest to be Your children, Gracious Father.
And we lift our heads before You as a token of our love,
Gracious Father, Gracious Father.

Precious Jesus, Precious Jesus,
We're so glad that You've redeemed us, Precious Jesus.
And we lift our hands before You as a token of our love,
Precious Jesus, Precious Jesus.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
come and fill our hearts anew, Holy Spirit;
And we lift our voice before You as a token of our love,
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.

"Holy, Holy" by Jimmy Owens.
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READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"A Conversion No One Expected"*

Acts 9:1–31

Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the
Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest. 2 He requested letters addressed to
the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any
followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and
women—back to Jerusalem in chains.

3 As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven
suddenly shone down around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to
him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?"

5 "Who are you, lord?" Saul asked.

And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! 6 Now get up
and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

7 The men with Saul stood speechless, for they heard the sound of someone's
voice but saw no one! 8 Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened
his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus. 9 He
remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink.

10 Now there was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to
him in a vision, calling, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord!" he replied.

11 The Lord said, "Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you
get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. 12 I
have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on
him so he can see again."

13 "But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the
terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! 14 And he is
authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name."

15 But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my
message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. 16 And I will
show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake."

17 So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said,
"Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that
you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Instantly something
like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was
baptized. 19 Afterward he ate some food and regained his strength.

Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days. 20 And
immediately he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is indeed
the Son of God!"

21 All who heard him were amazed. "Isn't this the same man who caused such
devastation among Jesus' followers in Jerusalem?" they asked. "And didn't he come
here to arrest them and take them in chains to the leading priests?"

22 Saul's preaching became more and more powerful, and the Jews in
Damascus couldn't refute his proofs that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. 23 After a
while some of the Jews plotted together to kill him. 24 They were watching for him
day and night at the city gate so they could murder him, but Saul was told about
their plot. 25 So during the night, some of the other believers lowered him in a large
basket through an opening in the city wall.

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.

* HYMN #92: *BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS*

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat,
And the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus
Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One
Who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears
Two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love
And my unworthiness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *and* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Our practice is to eat the bread individually as it is distributed,
and to hold onto the cup until all have received it, and then partake of it in unison.
Our communion bread is gluten-free.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Passing the Peace: "May the peace of Christ be with you"

Communion

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

* HYMN #280: *AMAZING GRACE*

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Tuesday, Nov. 3	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30) Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
Wednesday, Nov. 4	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 3: *God Is Good Even When Life Isn't*)
Saturday, Nov. 7	Spaghetti Dinner and Craft Fair Fundraiser (5:00–7:00)
Sunday, Nov. 8	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary) *NO POTLUCK (Delayed two weeks)*
LOOKING AHEAD	November 11 – 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*

Our Spaghetti Dinner/Craft Fair Fundraiser supports the homeless ministry John and Leslie O'Brien lead on Tuesday nights each week. The money is used for food, but also hats, socks, and gloves, and even tarps to help the homeless get through the winter.

If you have crafts for the craft sale you can drop them off at the church this Sunday, but also Tuesday through Thursday afternoons (1:00–5:00).

Thanks so much!

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