

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 10 am

*"The LORD is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid?
The LORD is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?" (Psalms 27:1)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

★

THERE IS A REDEEMER

There is a Redeemer, Jesus God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

*Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit, till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain. *[Refrain]*

When I stand in glory, I will see His face,
There I'll serve my King, forever,
In that holy place. *[Refrain]*

*"There Is a Redeemer," by Melody Green. © 1982 Universal Music—Brentwood Benson Publishing, Birdwing Music, Ears To Hear;
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

I will sing of the LORD's unfailing love forever!
Young and old will hear of your faithfulness.

Your unfailing love will last forever.
Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens.

All heaven will praise your great wonders, LORD;
myriads of angels will praise you for your faithfulness.

O LORD God of Heaven's Armies!
Where is there anyone as mighty as you, O LORD?
You are entirely faithful.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.
Unfailing love and truth walk before you as attendants.

Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship,
for they will walk in the light of your presence, LORD.
They rejoice all day long in your wonderful reputation.
They exult in your righteousness.
You are their glorious strength.

Praise the LORD forever!
Amen and amen!

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 HYMN #376: *LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING*

Love divine, all loves excelling,
 Joy of heaven to earth come down,
 Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
 All Thy faithful mercies crown!
 Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
 Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
 Visit us with Thy salvation,
 Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
 Into every troubled breast!
 Let us all in Thee inherit,
 Let us find that second rest;
 Take away the love of sinning;
 Alpha and Omega be;
 End of faith, as its beginning,
 Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
 Let us all Thy life receive;
 Suddenly return, and never,
 Nevermore Thy temples leave.
 Thee we would be always blessing,
 Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
 Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
 Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;
 Pure and spotless let us be;
 Let us see Thy great salvation
 Perfectly restored in Thee;
 Changed from glory into glory,
 Till in heaven we take our place,
 Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
 Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

 PRAYER OF CONFESSION *AND* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Gracious and merciful God:
 You are all-wise and You know us inside and out.
 We come to You now only too aware of the darkness and sin in our lives.

We confess that we have said and done things
 that are against Your will and that have hurt others.

Our words have not reflected Your grace, goodness, and mercy.

Our deeds have often revealed our pride, self-centeredness, and apathy.

We have often been too busy to stop and listen to Your voice.

We too often fail to live like Jesus, and to rest in You.

Lord, we are sorry and we ask for your forgiveness.

**Holy Spirit, fill us with a commitment to faithfulness;
fill us with your hope and peace.**

And now hear us as we continue to confess our sins in silence . . .

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

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HYMN #210: *O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST* (verses 1–3, 5)

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"A Witness to the End"*

Acts 6:8–7:1

Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people. ⁹ But one day some men from the Synagogue of Freed Slaves, as it was called, started to debate with him. They were Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and the province of Asia. ¹⁰ None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke.

¹¹ So they persuaded some men to lie about Stephen, saying, "We heard him blaspheme Moses, and even God." ¹² This roused the people, the elders, and the teachers of religious law. So they arrested Stephen and brought him before the high council.

¹³ The lying witnesses said, "This man is always speaking against the holy Temple and against the law of Moses. ¹⁴ We have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy the Temple and change the customs Moses handed down to us."

¹⁵ At this point everyone in the high council stared at Stephen, because his face became as bright as an angel's.

¹ Then the high priest asked Stephen, "Are these accusations true?"

Acts 7:54–60

The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen's accusation, and they shook their fists at him in rage. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. ⁵⁶ And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!"

⁵⁷ Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him ⁵⁸ and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ He fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died.

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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I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back; no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
though none go with me, I still will follow;
no turning back, no turning back.

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Tuesday, Oct. 20	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30) Worship at Channel Point (10:30) Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
Wednesday, Oct. 21	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30) Coffee and Study (1:00 – 2:00) Soup and Study (6:00 – 7:45) <i>The Goodness of God</i> (Week 1: <i>Doubting God's Goodness—Is God Really Good?</i>)
Sunday, Oct. 25	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
LOOKING AHEAD	October 28 – 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 church supports the Aberdeen Food Bank—and they are very dependent on donations from congregations here in Grays Harbor. They especially appreciate peanut butter, pasta, pasta sides, and canned soups, beans, and vegetables. You can help by dropping your donation in the box in the office hallway. Thank you for your support! (*One quick note: they no longer use or need egg cartons.*)

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