

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 16, 2026 at 10 am

*"This is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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WONDERFUL, MERCIFUL SAVIOR

Wonderful merciful Savior,
Precious Redeemer and Friend,
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men;
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

*You are the One that we praise;
You are the One we adore;
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for,
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.*

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace,
You offer hope when our hearts
Have hopelessly lost the way;
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way. *[Refrain]*

Almighty, infinite, Father,
Faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us,
Falling before Your throne;
Oh, we're falling before Your throne. *[Refrain]*

*"Wonderful Merciful Savior" by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse,
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Let the godly sing for joy to the LORD;
it is fitting for the pure to praise him.

He loves whatever is just and good;
the unfailing love of the LORD fills the earth.

The LORD's plans stand firm forever;
his intentions can never be shaken.
What joy for the nation whose God is the LORD,
whose people he has chosen as his inheritance.

We put our hope in the LORD.
 He is our help and our shield.
 In him our hearts rejoice,
 for we trust in his holy name.

Let your unfailing love surround us, LORD,
 for our hope is in you alone.

Come, now, as we sing with joy,
 and as we worship our God and Savior.

Based on Psalm 33:1, 5, 11–12, 20–22.

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HYMN #288: *I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD* ---

I sing the mighty power of God
 That made the mountains rise;
 That spread the flowing seas abroad
 And built the lofty skies.
 I sing the wisdom that ordained
 The sun to rule the day;
 The moon shines full at God's command,
 And all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord
 That filled the earth with food;
 God formed the creatures with a word
 And then pronounced them good.
 Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
 Where'er I turn my eyes;
 If I survey the ground I tread,
 Or gaze upon the skies!

There's not a plant or flower below
 But makes Thy glories known;
 And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
 By order from Thy throne;
 While all that borrows life from Thee
 Is ever in Thy care,
 And everywhere that we can be,
 Thou, God, art present there.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Gracious and merciful God,
 you have set before us the paths of life,
 and you have invited us to walk in your ways.
 Yet too often, we have chosen poorly.

We have chosen what is easy rather than what is right,
 what is comfortable rather than what is faithful,
 what serves ourselves rather than what serves our neighbor.

You have shown us the path of righteousness,
yet we have turned aside to follow our own desires.

Forgive us, O God, for the sin that so easily besets us,
for choices we have made, and for the good we have chosen not to do.

Turn our hearts again toward you.

Give us wisdom to recognize the path before us,
courage to choose what is right,
and grace to walk faithfully in your ways.

Hear now our silent confessions . . .

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

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HYMN #356: COME THOU FOUNT

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"Chosen, Called, and Free"*

Ephesians 1:3–14

³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by

bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. ⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

⁹ God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. ¹⁰ And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. ¹¹ Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

¹² God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. ¹³ And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. ¹⁴ The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

Deuteronomy 30:15–16, 19–20

“Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster. ¹⁶ For I command you this day to love the LORD your God and to keep his commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in his ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy.

¹⁹ “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! ²⁰ You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the LORD, you will live long in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

1 Timothy 2:3–4

This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.

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 HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
Thy head upon My breast."

I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
Stoop down, and drink, and live."

I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise,
And all your day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my Star, my Sun;
And in that Light of life I'll walk,
Till trav'ling days are done.

*"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" by Horatius Bonar and Terry Kirkland.
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Tuesday, August 18	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30) Worship at Channel Point (10:30) Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
Wednesday, August 19	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Thursday, August 20	Deacons' Meeting (2:00 pm)
Sunday, August 23	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
LOOKING AHEAD	August 26: Summer Lawn Concert: <i>The Goods</i> (6:30–8:00) Sunday, August 30: Sharing Table

Worship at Channel Point is one of our church's ministries, providing a worship time (music, prayer, and a Bible lesson) for the residents at Channel Point. Last time we had 19 people attend—although average attendance is usually somewhat less (doctor's appointments often conflict). We appreciate prayer for these "members" of our congregation!

Church Financial Update (*through July*)

Actual Expenses to Date: \$128,136 Giving to Date: \$97,785

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our church and its mission!

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Office Hours: 12 pm – 4 pm (Wednesday – Friday)

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