

# *Worship at First Presbyterian Church*

*Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 10 am*

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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## *OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART, LORD*

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Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;  
Open the eyes of my heart.  
I want to see You; I want to see You.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;  
Open the eyes of my heart.  
I want to see You; I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up,  
Shinin' in the light of Your glory.  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy:

Holy, holy, holy;  
We cry holy, holy, holy.  
You are holy, holy, holy,  
I want to see you.

*"Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord," by Paul Baloche  
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

### CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

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Blessed are the peacemakers,  
For they will be called children of God.

We come from a world shaped by discord, conflict, and fear,  
where division often feels easier than reconciliation—  
easier than being a peace *maker*.

But we are called to be ambassadors of reconciliation and creators of shalom.

We come today to rejoice in the God who makes all things new,  
who calls us to walk in the ways of peace.

We bring our relationships, our wounds, and our longing,  
trusting the Father's leading,  
following the Son's example,  
and relying on the Spirit to help us be instruments of peace.

With grateful hearts let us worship the Prince of Peace.

CHOIR: *THE PEOPLE OF GOD*

## READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD (Part 1)

Sermon: *"Finding God's Blessing in Surprising Places:  
The Peacemakers"*

Matthew 5:1–10

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them.

He said:

- <sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.
- <sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.
- <sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.
- <sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.
- <sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.
- <sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.
- <sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *AND* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Prince of Peace,

**we confess our complicity in a world of conflict,**

the times we have sown discord,  
nurtured division, and avoided the hard work of peace.

We too often have contributed to division through our silence,  
our anger, and our refusal to listen.

**We have spoken harshly, acted selfishly,**  
and neglected the call to be your instruments of peace.

Forgive us, Lord.

Fill us by your Spirit with the peace that only Christ gives.

Empower us to be instruments of your shalom  
in our homes, our church, and our world.

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

## READING OF GOD'S WORD

2 Corinthians 13:11–12 (NIV)

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

James 3:17–18

The wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

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HYMN #295: *O GOD OF LOVE, O GOD OF PEACE* (music: #510)

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O God of love, O God of peace,  
Make wars throughout the world to cease;  
The wrath of nations now restrain:  
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

Remember, Lord, Thy works of old,  
The wonders that Thy people told;  
Remember not our sin's deep stain:  
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

Whom shall we trust but Thee, O Lord?  
Where rest but on Thy faithful word?  
None ever called on Thee in vain:  
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

Where saints and angels dwell above,  
All hearts are knit in holy love;  
O bind us in that heavenly chain:  
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD (Part 2)

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Sermon: *"Finding God's Blessing in Surprising Places:  
The Peacemakers"*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

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*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

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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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#374: *LORD, MAKE US SERVANTS OF YOUR PEACE*

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Lord, make us servants of your peace:  
 where there is hate, may we sow love;  
 where there is hurt, may we forgive;  
 where there is strife, may we make one.

Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;  
 where all is gloom, may we sow hope;  
 where all is night, may we sow light;  
 where all is tears, may we sow joy.

Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek  
 to be consoled, but to console,  
 nor look to understanding hearts,  
 but look for hearts to understand.

May we not look for love's return,  
 but seek to love unselfishly,  
 for in our giving we receive,  
 and in forgiving are forgiven.

Dying, we live, and are reborn  
 through death's dark night to endless day;  
 Lord, make us servants of your peace,  
 to wake at last in heaven's light.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

## CALENDAR

- TODAY    Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor)  
            Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
- Tuesday, Mar. 17    Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)  
                           Worship at Channel Point (10:30)  
                           Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
- Wednesday, Mar. 18    Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)  
                           Soup and Study: *Reel Jesus: Christ in Film*  
   Coffee and Study (1:00 pm)  
   Soup and Study (6:00 pm)
- Thursday, Mar. 19    Deacons’ Meeting (2:00 pm)  
                           Session (7:00 pm)
- Saturday, Mar. 21    Creation Station (11:00–1:00)
- Sunday, Mar. 22    Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor)  
                           Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
- LOOKING AHEAD    Sunday, March 29: Palm Sunday/Easter Cantata  
                           Thursday, April 2: Maundy Thursday Service  
   (Supper at 6:00), Service (6:30)  
                           Sunday, April 5: EASTER SUNDAY

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