

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 10 am

"The time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way." (John 4:23)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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SHOUT TO THE LORD

My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord there is none like you.
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength;
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship you.

*Shout to the Lord,
All the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty,
Praise to the King.
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of your name.
I sing for joy
At the work of your hands;
Forever I'll love you,
Forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in you.*

"Shout to the Lord" by Darlene Zschech.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Come, people of God—
we gather not on a mountain or in a temple made with hands,
but in spirit and in truth, to worship God.

**Let's fix our eyes on Jesus,
the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.**

In Him all things were created—
things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.
He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

He is the radiance of God's glory,
the exact representation of His being,
sustaining all things by His powerful word.

Once He had provided purification for sins,
He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength,
honor and glory and praise!

To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise forever!

Based on John 4, Colossians 1, Hebrews 1, and Revelation 5.

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HYMN #478: PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor
To His people in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Fatherlike He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him:
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

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, we groan at our weaknesses, and we ask forgiveness.
Your Word is so clear, and your grace is so good.
But too often we close our ears to your call.

We know what you require of us;
yet we so often choose to go our own way,
thinking we know better, seeking our glory instead of yours.

We mistreat those we love,
and we dishonor you, the One who made us.

Yet you invite us to be reconciled with you, and to renewed lives.
So we turn once again to the cross,
to our interceding Lord Jesus Christ seated at your right hand,
and to the gracious gift of your Spirit.

We seek your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
and we ask once again simply for mercy, and your peace.

With your Holy Spirit, sanctify us.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, for we ask it in Christ's name. Amen.

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

CHOIR: JOY DOWN IN MY HEART

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: "Awe, and Reverence, and Thanksgiving"

Revelation 4:1–5:14

Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." ² And instantly I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it. ³ The one sitting on the throne was as brilliant as gemstones—like jasper and carnelian. And the glow of an emerald circled his throne like a rainbow. ⁴ Twenty-four thrones surrounded him, and twenty-four elders sat on them. They were all clothed in white and had gold crowns on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning and the rumble of thunder. And in front of the throne were seven torches with burning flames. This is the sevenfold Spirit of God. ⁶ In front of the throne was a shiny sea of glass, sparkling like crystal.

In the center and around the throne were four living beings, each covered with eyes, front and back. ⁷ The first of these living beings was like a lion; the second was like an ox; the third had a human face; and the fourth was like an eagle in flight. ⁸ Each of these living beings had six wings, and their wings were covered all over with eyes, inside and out. Day after day and night after night they keep on saying,

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty—
the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come."

⁹ Whenever the living beings give glory and honor and thanks to the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever), ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down and worship the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever). And they lay their crowns before the throne and say,

¹¹ "You are worthy, O Lord our God,
to receive glory and honor and power.
For you created all things,
and they exist because you created what you pleased."

⁵ ¹ Then I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who was sitting on the throne. There was writing on the inside and the outside of the scroll, and it was

sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a strong angel, who shouted with a loud voice: “Who is worthy to break the seals on this scroll and open it?” ³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll and read it.

⁴ Then I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll and read it. ⁵ But one of the twenty-four elders said to me, “Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David’s throne, has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

⁶ Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings and among the twenty-four elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the sevenfold Spirit of God that is sent out into every part of the earth. ⁷ He stepped forward and took the scroll from the right hand of the one sitting on the throne. ⁸ And when he took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they held gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. ⁹ And they sang a new song with these words:

“You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it.
For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation.

¹⁰ And you have caused them to become
a Kingdom of priests for our God.
And they will reign on the earth.”

¹¹ Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. ¹² And they sang in a mighty chorus:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered—
to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and blessing.”

¹³ And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. They sang:

“Blessing and honor and glory and power
belong to the one sitting on the throne
and to the Lamb forever and ever.”

¹⁴ And the four living beings said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped the Lamb.

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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HOLY, MIGHTY, WORTHY

Holy, holy, holy. Seraph choirs extol Thee;
 Bending wings they humbly sing
 of Thy lofty majesty.

Thou alone art holy; Who on earth is like Thee,
 Grant that we like Thee may be: holy, holy, holy.

Mighty, mighty, mighty. Sun and stars declare Thee;
 All creation joins to sing
 of Thy pow'r and deity.

Thou alone art mighty; Naught was made without Thee,
 Grant that we Thy pow'r may see: Mighty, mighty, mighty.

Worthy, worthy, worthy. Saints in heav'n exalt Thee;
 Lamb once slain now raised to reign,
 Savior Judge and conq-ring King.

Thou alone art worthy; All was made to please Thee;
 Grant that we in heav'n may sing: Worthy, worthy, worthy.

Glory, glory, glory. We Thy church adore Thee.
 Called by grace to bring Thee praise,
 Trophies of Thy pow'r to save.

None shall share Thy glory; All shall bow before Thee;
 Father Son and Spirit One: Glory, glory, glory.

"Holy, Mighty, Worthy" by Chris Anderson and Greg Habegger
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary) Youth Group (4:00 at the church)
Tuesday, Sept. 23	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Wednesday, Sept. 24	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Sunday, Sept. 28	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
LOOKING AHEAD	Spaghetti Dinner / Craft Fair Fundraiser (Saturday, October 25) Halloween "Coffee for Parents" (Friday, October 31)

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Office Hours: 10 am – 2 pm (Monday, Wednesday – Friday)

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