

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, October 12, 2025 at 10 am

*"I love the LORD because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy.
Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath!" (Psalm 116:1–2)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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HYMN #464: *JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE*

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we come with thanksgiving and joy to worship you,
to give you thanks, to praise you for your glory.

Let's bless the Lord and worship his holy name.

Based on the hymn "Glory to God in the Highest."

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BEHOLD OUR GOD

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
 Who has numbered every grain of sand?
 Kings and nations tremble at His voice;
 All creation rises to rejoice:

*Behold our God seated on His throne:
 Come let us adore Him;
 Behold our King nothing can compare:
 Come let us adore Him.*

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
 Who can question any of His words?
 Who can teach the One who knows all things?
 Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds? *[Refrain]*

Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
 Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
 God eternal humbled to the grave;
 Jesus Savior risen now to reign. *[Refrain]*

"Behold Our God" by Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, and Stephen Altrogge;
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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 Holy God,
 You invite us to draw near to you in prayer—
 to speak honestly, to listen carefully,
 to live continually in your presence.
 Yet we confess how easily we turn away.

We confess that we pray too little—
 offering you hurried words when life presses in,
 forgetting that you created us, and you sustain us in every facet of our lives.

We confess that we pray too narrowly—
 seeking your help for our needs
 but neglecting the cries of the world you love.

We confess that we pray too cautiously—
 asking for comfort more than courage,
 for ease more than faithfulness.
 forgetting your call to be committed followers of Jesus.

Lord, forgive us. Renew us in your Spirit.

Teach us again to pray—
 to rest in your presence with joy,
 to wrestle before you with honesty,

to intercede for others with compassion,
and to give thanks in all things.

Hear now our personal and private prayers

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

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HYMN #326: *SPIRIT OF GOD, DESCEND UPON MY HEART*

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King;
All, all Thine own: soul, heart, and strength and mind?
I see Thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: "*The Lord Listens*"

Psalms 34:1–6, 8

I will praise the LORD at all times.

I will constantly speak his praises.

² I will boast only in the LORD;

let all who are helpless take heart.

³ Come, let us tell of the LORD's greatness;

let us exalt his name together.

⁴ I prayed to the LORD, and he answered me.

He freed me from all my fears.

⁵ Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy;

no shadow of shame will darken their faces.

⁶ In my desperation I prayed, and the LORD listened;

he saved me from all my troubles. . . .

⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good.

Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

Psalms 116:1–6

I love the LORD because he hears my voice
and my prayer for mercy.

- ² Because he bends down to listen,
I will pray as long as I have breath!
- ³ Death wrapped its ropes around me;
the terrors of the grave overtook me.
I saw only trouble and sorrow.
- ⁴ Then I called on the name of the LORD:
“Please, LORD, save me!”
- ⁵ How kind the LORD is! How good he is!
So merciful, this God of ours!

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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HYMN #403: *WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS*

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Do your friends despise, forsake you?
 Take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield you;
 you will find a solace there.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary) Potluck (after the service) Youth Group (pumpkin patch trip): meet at church, 12:30
Tuesday, Oct. 14	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Wednesday, Oct. 15	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Thursday, Oct. 16	Deacons' Meeting (2:00 pm)
Sunday, Oct. 19	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
LOOKING AHEAD	Spaghetti Dinner / Craft Fair Fundraiser (Saturday, October 25) Halloween "Coffee for Parents" (Friday, October 31)

Church Financial Update (through September)

Actual Expenses to Date: \$160,426 Giving to Date: \$146,783
Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our church and its mission!

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