

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, July 20, 2025 at 10 am

*"Just as the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people, both now and forever." (Psalms 125:2)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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HYMN #469: *MORNING HAS BROKEN*

Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light, Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

As the deer pants for streams of water,
so we long for you, O God.

We thirst for you, the living God.
When can we come and stand in your presence?

Through each day,
the Lord pours his unfailing love upon us.

Through each night
we sing his songs,
praying to the God who gives us life.

Send out your light and your truth, O God.
Let them guide us to Your holy mountain,
to the place where you live.

Then we will come to the altar of God,
to God—the source of our joy and delight.

Based on Psalms 42 and 43.

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AS THE DEER

As the deer panteth for the water,
 So my soul longeth after Thee.
 You alone are my heart's desire,
 And I long to worship Thee.

*You alone are my strength my shield;
 To You alone may my spirit yield.
 You alone are my heart's desire
 And I long to worship Thee.*

You're my friend and You are my brother,
 Even though You are a King.
 I love You more than any other,
 So much more than anything. *[Refrain]*

I want You more than gold or silver,
 Only You can satisfy.
 You alone are the real joygiver,
 And the apple of my eye. *[Refrain]*

"As the Deer" by Martin Nystrom.

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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 God, we so want to be right in Your eyes.
 Yet Your Holy Word makes it clear to us
 that our righteousness does not come from us, or what we do.

In fact, it's a great relief when we truly understand grace—
 that we don't have to perform for You, or work for your love.
 All you require for us is to place our faith in your precious son,
 our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Nevertheless, we so often forget this,
and find ourselves attempting to secure Your love by our own efforts.

Have mercy upon us Lord.
 Forgive us when we lapse back into a mindset of performance.

Forgive us when we lose sight
of the simple goal of trusting in Christ's sacrifice on our behalf,
 and the joy of knowing Jesus as our Lord.

Now hear our personal and silent prayers

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

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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.

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"Hills, Mountains, and the Holy Mountain:
 Mountains in the Bible"*

Exodus 19:1–8

Exactly two months after the Israelites left Egypt, they arrived in the wilderness of Sinai. ² After breaking camp at Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and set up camp there at the base of Mount Sinai.

³ Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: ⁴ 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. ⁶ And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.' This is the message you must give to the people of Israel."

⁷ So Moses returned from the mountain and called together the elders of the people and told them everything the LORD had commanded him. ⁸ And all the people responded together, "We will do everything the LORD has commanded."

Matthew 5:1–12

One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, ² and he began to teach them.

³ “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

⁴ God blesses those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ God blesses those who are humble,
for they will inherit the whole earth.

⁶ God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,
for they will be satisfied.

⁷ God blesses those who are merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ God blesses those whose hearts are pure,
for they will see God.

⁹ God blesses those who work for peace,
for they will be called the children of God.

¹⁰ God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

¹¹ “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

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 #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.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary) Potluck (after the service)
Tuesday, July 22	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Wednesday, July 23	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30) Lawn Concert with Angel Phoenix (6:30–8:00)
Sunday, July 27	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
LOOKING AHEAD	Tuesday, August 5: National Night Out BBQ/Community Welcome (6:00–7:30)

Church Financial Update (through June 30)

Actual Expenses to Date: \$111,909.52 ☞ Giving to Date: \$102,252.84
Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our church and its mission!

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