

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 26, 2026 at 10 am

"You are the salt of the earth. . . . You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:13-14)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*

BEHOLD WHAT MANNER OF LOVE

Behold what manner of love
The Father has given unto us;
Behold what manner of love
The Father has given unto us:

That we should be called
The children of God;
That we should be called
The children of God.

(Sing through twice)

"Behold What Manner of Love" by Patricia Van Tine.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Give thanks to the LORD and proclaim his greatness.
Let the whole world know what he has done.

Sing to him; yes, sing his praises.
Tell everyone about his wonderful deeds.

Exult in his holy name;
rejoice, you who worship the LORD.

Let the whole earth sing to the LORD!
Each day proclaim the good news that he saves.
Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.
Tell everyone about the amazing things he does.

Honor and majesty surround him;
strength and joy fill his dwelling.

Give to the LORD the glory he deserves!
Worship the LORD in all his holy splendor.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good!
His faithful love endures forever.

From 1 Chronicles 16:8-10, 23-24, 27, 29, 34.

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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.

 PRAYER OF CONFESSION *AND* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Loving God, you have blessed us that we might be a blessing—
 sent into the world as bearers of your presence,
 to share the good news of your love
 and make disciples of all nations.

And yet we have been fearful of being different,
 hesitant to confess that Jesus came to reconcile us to you
and to bring fulfillment, joy, and peace.

We confess that we have muffled what you meant to ring clear.

We have softened our witness to avoid discomfort,
 swallowed words you placed in our mouths,

and shaped ourselves to the world's expectations rather than yours—
 and those around us have gone without
 the salt and light you intended us to be.

We have absorbed the values of our age so thoroughly
 we no longer offer what only you can give.

Lord, forgive us.

Restore what has grown faint.

Renew our courage to be what you have made us to be.

We pray in the name of Christ,
 who is himself the Light of the world. Amen.

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

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IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
 When sorrows like sea billows roll;
 Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say:
 It is well, It is well with my soul.

*It is well with my soul;
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Tho' Satan should buffet, Tho' trials should come;
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. *[Refrain]*

My sin—O the bliss of this glorious thought—
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, O my soul. *[Refrain]*

And Lord haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
Even so it is well with my soul. *[Refrain]*

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"Salt and Light: The Beatitudes Made Visible"*

Text: Matthew 5:13–16

"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Colossians 4:6 (NIV)

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Isaiah 58:10

Feed the hungry,
and help those in trouble.
Then your light will shine out from the darkness,
and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.

Ephesians 5:8–14

For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! ⁹ For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

¹⁰ Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. ¹³ But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, ¹⁴ for the light makes everything visible.

Philippians 2:15

Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.

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 #525: *HERE I AM, LORD*

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
 I have heard my people cry.
 All who dwell in deepest sin
 My hand will save.
 I who made the stars of night,
 I will make their darkness bright.
 Who will bear my light to them?
 Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord.
 Is it I, Lord?
 I have heard You calling in the night.
 I will go, Lord,
 If You lead me,
 I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain
 I have borne My people's pain.
 I have wept for love of them,
 they turn away.
 I will break their hearts of stone,
 Give them hearts for love alone.
 I will speak My word to them.
 Whom shall I send? *[Refrain]*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
 I will tend the poor and lame.
 I will set a feast for them,
 My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide
 Till their hearts be satisfied.
 I will give my life to them.
 Whom shall I send? *[Refrain]*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Tuesday, April 28	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Wednesday, April 29	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Sunday, May 3	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary) <i>Beginning our sermon series on the Holy Spirit</i>
LOOKING AHEAD	Mother's Day Breakfast (May 10, 8:30–9:30) Summer Lawn Concerts! (Second/fourth Wednesdays of July and August)

Our Medical Equipment Closet ministry is moving forward, but we need some volunteers who would be willing to help staff "open hours" during the week when people could come and pick up equipment. If you would be willing to give a couple hours a week to this, we'd be very grateful. To find out more about this possibility please talk to Fred Hall or Chuck.

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