

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 16, 2025 at 10 am

"Some of the people argued, 'He's a good man,' but others said, 'He's nothing but a fraud who deceives the people.' The crowd was divided about him. Some even wanted him arrested." (John 7:12, 43-44)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*

HERE I AM TO WORSHIP

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness;
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

*Here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days, oh, so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake, became poor.

*Here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.*

I'll never know how much it cost,
To see my sin upon that cross;
I'll never know how much it cost,
To see my sin upon that cross.

*"Here I Am to Worship" by Tim Hughes.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

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HYMN #276: GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *[Refrain]*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *[Refrain]*

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

As we gather today, each of us brings something to worship.

We bring the burdens of the week.

We bring prayers of hope, and prayers of anguish.

We bring our voices, and our offerings—and our questions.

We bring our minds and our hearts
to be comforted, and challenged, and transformed
by God's call to obedience and service.

We bring our faith, tattered or whole as it may be.

We bring all this to each other and to God, whom we worship today.

**“Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens!
May your glory shine over all the earth.”**

CHOIR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

**O Lord, You who are all merciful:
take away my sins from me
and enkindle within me the fire of Your Holy Spirit.**

**Take away this heart of stone from me
and give me a heart of flesh and blood,
a heart to love and adore You,
a heart which may delight in You, love You, and please You—
for Christ's sake.**

Amen.

Ambrose of Milan (4th Century Bishop)

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

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"Who Do You Think You Are?!!"*

John 8:42-59

Jesus told them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me. ⁴³ Why can't you understand what I am saying? It's because you can't even hear me! ⁴⁴ For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ So when I tell the truth, you just naturally don't believe me! ⁴⁶ Which of you can truthfully accuse me of sin? And since I am telling you the truth, why don't you believe me? ⁴⁷ Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don't listen because you don't belong to God."

⁴⁸ The people retorted, "You Samaritan devil! Didn't we say all along that you were possessed by a demon?"

⁴⁹ "No," Jesus said, "I have no demon in me. For I honor my Father—and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ And though I have no wish to glorify myself, God is going to glorify me. He is the true judge. ⁵¹ I tell you the truth, anyone who obeys my teaching will never die!"

⁵² The people said, "Now we know you are possessed by a demon. Even Abraham and the prophets died, but you say, 'Anyone who obeys my teaching will never die!' ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I want glory for myself, it doesn't count. But it is my Father who will glorify me. You say, 'He is our God,' ⁵⁵ but you don't even know him. I know him. If I said otherwise, I would be as great a liar as you! But I do know him and obey him. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to my coming. He saw it and was glad."

⁵⁷ The people said, "You aren't even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?"

⁵⁸ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM!" ⁵⁹ At that point they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple.

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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WE BOW DOWN

You are Lord of creation
 And Lord of my life
 Lord of the land and the sea
 You were Lord of the heavens
 Before there was time
 And Lord of all lords You will be.

*We bow down, and we worship You Lord;
 We bow down, and we worship You Lord;
 We bow down, and we worship You Lord,
 Lord of all lords You will be.*

You are King of creation
 And King of my life
 King of the land and the sea
 You were King of the heavens
 Before there was time
 And King of all kings You will be.

*We bow down, and we crown You the King;
 We bow down, and we crown You the King;
 We bow down, and we crown You the King,
 King of all kings You will be.*

"We Bow Down" by Twila Paris.
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

- TODAY** Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor)
 Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
- Tuesday, Mar. 18** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
 Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
 Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
- Wednesday, Mar. 19** Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
 Lenten Study: *Friendly Faith*
 Coffee and Study (1:00 pm)
 Soup and Study (6:00 pm)
- Thursday, Mar. 20** Deacons’ Meeting (2:00 pm)
- Sunday, Mar. 23** Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
- LOOKING AHEAD** Saturday, March 29: Feast for All (5:00–7:00)
 March 30: Church Membership Information Meeting
 (after church)

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