

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, October 6, 2024 at 10 am

"I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me." (Psalm 57:2)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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HYMN #293: THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD

This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world.
Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
The battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE,
PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION AND THE WORLD**

CALL TO WORSHIP

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HE LEADETH ME (VERSES 1-3)

He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me;
by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.*

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden's flowers bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. *[Refrain]*

* *Please stand if you are able*

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. [*Refrain*]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (RESPONSIVE)

Almighty God, you have called us to one table,
but too often we have pursued our own course.

**You have promised us the abundance of all creation,
but from greed, and envy, the world goes without.**

You have promised us the bread of life itself,
but pride and arrogance allows too many in the world to go hungry.

**You have promised us the waters of peace and justice,
but in violence, and discord, the world goes thirsty.**

And now we are famished, too, Lord.
Have mercy on us. Forgive us, again.

**Transform us, *at* this table,
and *for* this table,
and send us *from* this table as servants of your righteousness,
by the power of your Son, our Lord.**

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

MEN'S QUARTET

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: "*The Promise of a Purpose*"

Ephesians 1:3-14

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. ⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

⁹ God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. ¹⁰ And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. ¹¹ Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

¹² God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. ¹³ And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. ¹⁴ The Spirit is God's guarantee that he

will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

2 Timothy 1:9-11

For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News. ¹¹ And God chose me to be a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of this Good News.

WE RESPOND 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.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Our practice is to eat the bread individually as it is distributed, and to hold onto the cup until all have received it, and partake of it in unison.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer

Passing the Peace: “May the peace of Christ be with you”

Communion

Affirmation of Faith (unison)

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,
the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

And we believe that that this unity of the people of God
must be manifest and active,
in that we love one another;
that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another,
that we are share one baptism together,
that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together,
that we confess one name, one Lord,
for one cause,
with one hope,
which is the height and the breadth
and the depth and the love of Christ,
forever and ever. Amen.

Adapted from the Belhar Confession.

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BEHOLD THE LAMB

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us, and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith:
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,

As a sign of our bonds of peace,
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ
Torn for you: eat and remember.
The wounds that heal the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of love,
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin
Shed for you: drink and remember.
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace,
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise,
To respond and to remember.
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ,
As His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering,
We proclaim Christ will come again,
And we'll join in the feast of heaven,
Around the table of the King.
Around the table of the King.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

- TODAY** Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
- Tuesday, Oct. 8** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
- Wednesday, Oct. 9** Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
- Thursday, Oct. 10** Session (7:00 pm)
- Saturday, Oct. 12** Creation Station (11:00–1:00)
- Sunday, Oct. 13** Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Potluck (after the service)
- LOOKING AHEAD** Wednesday, Oct. 30: Fall Coffee and Study/Soup and Study starts!
- From Manuscript to Translations*
Coffee and Study: 1:00 pm
Soup and Study: 6:00 pm
- Saturday, Nov. 2: Spaghetti Dinner/Craft Fair Fundraiser (5:00–7:00)

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