

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 10 am

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." (Matthew 5:4)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*

HYMN #466: *O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING*

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,
And sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,
Christ's blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

ANNOUNCEMENTS,
PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION AND THE WORLD

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Blessed are those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.

We come today with lives touched by loss and grief;
We come distressed and in pain for all the brokenness in the world around us,
a world that teaches us to hide our tears.

We bring our sorrows, our private griefs,
and our laments to our God who loves us:
trusting the Father's care, the Son's presence,
and the Spirit's gentle sustaining.

God meets us here with mercy, grace, and faithful comfort.

Let us worship the Triune God—
the Father who promises the kingdom,
the Son who embodies the kingdom among us,
and the Spirit who leads us toward its fullness.

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I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "Come unto Me and rest;
 Lay down, O weary one, lay down
 Thy head upon My breast."

I came to Jesus as I was,
 Weary, and worn, and sad;
 I found in him a resting-place,
 And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "Behold, I freely give
 The living water; thirsty one,
 Stoop down, and drink, and live."
 I came to Jesus, and I drank
 Of that life-giving stream;
 My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "I am this dark world's Light;
 Look unto me, your morn shall rise,
 And all your day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found
 In him my Star, my Sun;
 And in that Light of life I'll walk,
 Till trav'ling days are done.

*"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" by Horatius Bonar and Terry Kirkland.
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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)

God of compassion,
 we confess the ways we have hardened our hearts,
 turning from sorrow, denying grief,
 and refusing to mourn the suffering of the world.

We turn away from the pain around us
 and from the brokenness within us.
 We are quick to ignore loss, to hide our tears,
 to silence lament instead of seeking your comfort.
 We have not grieved the sins that grieve you.

Forgive us, O Lord.
 Teach us to grieve rightly,
 to bring our brokenness before you,
 and to trust your presence in the midst of sorrow.

In Christ we are comforted,
and by your Spirit we are held.
Amen.

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

CHOIR: *MAKE ME A CHANNEL*

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"Finding God's Blessing in Surprising Places:
Those who Mourn"*

Matthew 5:1–4

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

He said:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Daniel 9:4–20

⁴ I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed:

"O Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands. ⁵ But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands and regulations. ⁶ We have refused to listen to your servants the prophets, who spoke on your authority to our kings and princes and ancestors and to all the people of the land.

⁷ "Lord, you are in the right; but as you see, our faces are covered with shame. This is true of all of us, including the people of Judah and Jerusalem and all Israel, scattered near and far, wherever you have driven us because of our disloyalty to you. ⁸ O LORD, we and our kings, princes, and ancestors are covered with shame because we have sinned against you. ⁹ But the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him. ¹⁰ We have not obeyed the LORD our God, for we have not followed the instructions he gave us through his servants the prophets. ¹¹ All Israel has disobeyed your instruction and turned away, refusing to listen to your voice.

"So now the solemn curses and judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured down on us because of our sin. ¹² You have kept your word and done to us and our rulers exactly as you warned. Never has there been such a disaster as happened in Jerusalem. ¹³ Every curse written against us in the Law of Moses has come true. Yet we have refused to seek mercy from the LORD our God by turning from our sins and recognizing his truth. ¹⁴ Therefore, the LORD has brought upon us the disaster he prepared. The LORD our God was right to do all of these things, for we did not obey him.

¹⁵ "O Lord our God, you brought lasting honor to your name by rescuing your people from Egypt in a great display of power. But we have sinned and are full of wickedness. ¹⁶ In view of all your faithful mercies, Lord, please turn your furious anger away from your city Jerusalem, your holy mountain. All the neighboring nations mock Jerusalem and your people because of our sins and the sins of our ancestors.

¹⁷ "O our God, hear your servant's prayer! Listen as I plead. For your own sake, Lord, smile again on your desolate sanctuary.

¹⁸ "O my God, lean down and listen to me. Open your eyes and see our despair. See how your city—the city that bears your name—lies in ruins. We make this plea, not because we deserve help, but because of your mercy.

¹⁹ "O Lord, hear. O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen and act! For your own sake, do not delay, O my God, for your people and your city bear your name."

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.*

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 then partake of it in unison.*

Our communion bread is gluten-free.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Passing the Peace: "May the peace of Christ be with you"

Communion

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church;

the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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CHRIST, THE SURE AND STEADY ANCHOR

Christ, the sure and steady anchor,

In the fury of the storm;

When the winds of doubt blow through me,

And my sails have all been torn,

In the suffering, in the sorrow,
 When my sinking hopes are few,
 I will hold fast to the anchor,
 It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor,
 While the tempest rages on;
 When temptation claims the battle,
 And it seems the night has won,
 Deeper still then goes the anchor,
 Though I justly stand accused,
 I will hold fast to the anchor,
 It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor,
 Through the floods of unbelief;
 Hopeless somehow, O my soul, now,
 Lift your eyes to Calvary.
 This my ballast of assurance,
 See His love forever proved,
 I will hold fast to the anchor,
 It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor,
 As we face the wave of death;
 When these trials give way to glory,
 And we draw our final breath,
 We will cross that great horizon,
 Clouds behind and life secure,
 And the calm will be the better,
 For the storms that we've endured.

Christ, the shore of our salvation,
 Ever faithful, ever true,
 We will hold fast to the anchor,
 It shall never be removed.

"Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor" by Matthew Boswell and Matthew Papa.
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

