

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 10, 2025 at 10 am

*If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews
will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die.
Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*

I LOVE YOU, LORD

I love You, Lord,
And I lift my voice
To worship You;
O my soul, rejoice.
Take joy, my King,
In what You hear;
May it be a sweet, sweet sound
In Your ear. [x2]

*"I Love You, Lord" by Laurie Klein
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Keep us safe, O God,
for we have come to you for refuge.
We bless you for your guidance;
Day and night you give us your instruction.
We know you are always with us,
in times of difficulty we will not be shaken for you are right beside us.
Therefore our hearts are glad; we rejoice in you.
We rest in your safety.
You show us the way of life,
granting us the joy of your presence—
and the pleasures of living with you forever.
Let's worship our ever-present, always caring God.

Based on Psalm 16:1, 7–11.

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O THE DEEP, DEEP LOVE OF JESUS

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Vast unmeasured boundless free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me.

Underneath me all around me,
Is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward leading homeward,
To my glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Spread His praise from shore to shore.
How He loveth ever loveth,
Changeth never nevermore.
How He watches o'er His loved ones,
Died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth,
Watches over them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Love of every love the best;
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
'Tis a heaven of heavens to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to Thee.

*"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" by Samuel Trevor Francis and Thomas John Williams.
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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)

As we come to you, O Lord, with our confession:
Remember the compassion and unfailing love
you have shown from long ages past.

Turn to us and have mercy on us,
for we come to you alone and in deep distress.
Feel our pain and see our trouble;
For the honor of your name, O Lord, forgive all our sins.

Show us the right path, O LORD;
point out the road for us to follow.
Lead us by your truth and teach us,
for you are the God who saves.
We put our hope in you.

Hear now our private confessions

Based on Psalm 25:4–6, 11, 16, 18.

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

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HYMN #442: *THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION* (verses 1-2, 4-5)

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the word.
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her
And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
May live eternally.

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"For Such a Time as This"*

Esther 4

¹ When Mordecai learned about all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on burlap and ashes, and went out into the city, crying with a loud and bitter wail. ² He went as far as the gate of the palace, for no one was allowed to enter the palace gate while wearing clothes of mourning. ³ And as news of the king's decree reached all the provinces, there was great mourning among the Jews. They fasted, wept, and wailed, and many people lay in burlap and ashes.

⁴ When Queen Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her about Mordecai, she was deeply distressed. She sent clothing to him to replace the burlap,

but he refused it. ⁵ Then Esther sent for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs who had been appointed as her attendant. She ordered him to go to Mordecai and find out what was troubling him and why he was in mourning. ⁶ So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the square in front of the palace gate.

⁷ Mordecai told him the whole story, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. ⁸ Mordecai gave Hathach a copy of the decree issued in Susa that called for the death of all Jews. He asked Hathach to show it to Esther and explain the situation to her. He also asked Hathach to direct her to go to the king to beg for mercy and plead for her people. ⁹ So Hathach returned to Esther with Mordecai's message.

¹⁰ Then Esther told Hathach to go back and relay this message to Mordecai: ¹¹ "All the king's officials and even the people in the provinces know that anyone who appears before the king in his inner court without being invited is doomed to die unless the king holds out his gold scepter. And the king has not called for me to come to him for thirty days." ¹² So Hathach gave Esther's message to Mordecai.

¹³ Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: "Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. ¹⁴ If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"

¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ "Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die." ¹⁷ So Mordecai went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

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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ROCK OF AGES

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save and thou alone.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

*"Rock of Ages" by Augustus Montague Toplady and Thomas Hastings,
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Tuesday, August 12	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Wednesday, August 13	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30) Lawn Concert: Don Stone Trio (6:30–8:00)
Thursday, August 14	Session (7:00 pm)
Sunday, August 17	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)

Church Financial Update (through July)

Actual Expenses to Date: \$ 126,724.47 Giving to Date: \$ 117,459.31
Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our church and its mission!

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