

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 10 am

*"You have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end.
Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God." (1 Peter 1:23)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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HYMN #485: *TO GOD BE THE GLORY*

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,

Let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,

Let the people rejoice!

*O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done.*

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. *[Refrain]*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

We come to worship the God who makes all things new.

We were born once of the flesh;

we have been born again of the Spirit.

This new birth is not our doing—it is the gift and work of God alone.
He has opened our eyes, softened our hearts, and drawn us to himself.

We did not ascend to him; he descended to us.

We did not awaken ourselves; the Spirit breathed, and we came alive.

And so we do not come to this place as those performing a duty,
but as those who have tasted life and come to its source.

We come as the hungry come to bread,
as the thirsty come to water,
as the newborn comes to life itself.

Let's lift up our hearts to the Father,
who chose us before the foundation of the world;
to the Son, who redeemed us by his blood;
and to the Spirit, who has drawn us to new birth and a living hope.

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HYMN #356: *COME THOU FOUNT*

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
 Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
 Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
 Call for songs of loudest praise.
 Teach me some melodious sonnet,
 Sung by flaming tongues above;
 Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
 Mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
 Hither by Thy help I'm come;
 And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
 Safely to arrive at home.
 Jesus sought me when a stranger,
 Wandering from the fold of God;
 He, to rescue me from danger,
 Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
 Daily I'm constrained to be!
 Let that grace now, like a fetter,
 Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
 Prone to leave the God I love;
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
 Seal it for Thy courts above.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *AND* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Merciful God,
 you have given us new birth through the Holy Spirit.
 You have made us your children, welcomed us into your household,
 clothed us with grace, and reconciled us to yourself.
 Yet we confess that we do not always live as people made new.
 We too easily return to old habits, old fears, and old sins.
 We speak and act as though we still belong to the broken patterns
 from which you rescued us.
 Too often we forget who we are—and *whose* we are.

Forgive us, Lord.
 By your Spirit, teach us to walk in the new life you have given.
 Help us to put on compassion, humility, patience, and love.
 Renew our hearts, shape our desires,
 and make us glad to live as your sons and daughters;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

SOLO: *KING OF KINGS*

 READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

 Sermon: *"The Holy Spirit and New Birth"*

John 3:1–8 (NIV)

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

⁴ "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Titus 3:4–7 (NIV)

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

 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

 * *AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)*

Amazing grace how sweet the sound,
 That saved a wretch like me.
 I once was lost but now I'm found,
 Was blind but now I see.
 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
 And grace my fears relieved.
 How precious did that grace appear,
 The hour I first believed.

My chains are gone I've been set free;
My God my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy rains,
Unending love amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me;
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine.
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine,
Will be forever mine,
You are forever mine.

*"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" by Chris Tomlin, John Newton, and Louie Giglio.
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Tuesday, May 19	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30) Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
Wednesday, May 20	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Thursday, May 21	Deacons' Meeting (2:00 pm) Session (7:00 pm)
Sunday, May 24	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Pentecost Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
LOOKING AHEAD	May 31: Sharing Table (before and after the service)

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Luke Crook to our church today in Chuck's absence. Luke has been a pastor in churches in both the Chicago area (where Chuck and he met), and in Seattle. Luke is currently transitioning to Phoenix where he will become a first time grandfather and teach history at a high school in the west valley.

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First Presbyterian Church of Aberdeen
420 N Broadway, Aberdeen, WA 98520

Pastor Chuck Guth: 847.800.7119 (cell) / chuck@aberdeenpres.org
Church Office: 360.532.1330 / office@aberdeenpres.org
Office Hours: 12 pm – 4 pm (Wednesday – Friday)

aberdeenpres.org