

# *Worship at First Presbyterian Church*

*Sunday, October 25, 2026 at 10 am*

*"All the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria.  
The believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went." (Acts 8:1, 4)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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## *OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART, LORD*

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Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;  
Open the eyes of my heart.  
I want to see You; I want to see You.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord;  
Open the eyes of my heart.  
I want to see You; I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up,  
Shinin' in the light of Your glory.  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy:

Holy, holy, holy;  
We cry holy, holy, holy.  
You are holy, holy, holy,  
I want to see you.

*"Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord," by Paul Baloche  
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

## *CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)*

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Come, let us worship the God who is present  
wherever God's people gather.

We come to praise the One whose love knows no boundaries.

Come, let us worship the Christ  
whose good news brings hope to the world.

We come to hear God's Word and receive the promise of new life.

The Spirit of God is at work in places familiar and unexpected,  
among people near and far.

May the Spirit open our hearts, strengthen our faith, and guide our steps.

Let's worship the God who calls us together,  
sends us into the world,  
and remains faithful wherever we go.

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HYMN #139: COME THOU ALMIGHTY KING

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Come, Thou Almighty King,  
 Help us Thy name to sing, Help us to praise:  
 Father, all-glorious, O'er all victorious,  
 Come, and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou Incarnate Word,  
 Gird on Thy mighty sword, Our prayer attend:  
 Come, and Thy people bless, And give Thy word success;  
 Spirit of holiness, On us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter,  
 Thy sacred witness bear In this glad hour:  
 Thou who almighty art, Now rule in every heart,  
 And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.

To Thee, great One in Three,  
 The highest praises be, Hence evermore!  
 Thy sovereign majesty May we in glory see,  
 And to eternity Love and adore.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Gracious God,  
 we confess that we do not always trust your presence  
**when life becomes difficult or uncertain.**

We allow fear to shape our decisions,  
 disappointment to weaken our hope,  
 and concern for ourselves to overshadow the needs of others.

We are often slow to speak a word of kindness,  
 reluctant to stand beside those who are vulnerable,  
 and hesitant to share the hope we have found in Jesus Christ.

Forgive us, Lord.  
 Open our eyes to our neighbors,  
 our hearts to those in need,  
 and our lives to the surprising work of your Holy Spirit.

Make us more faithful followers of Jesus,  
 who welcomes, heals, and saves. Amen.

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

CHOIR: SING GLORIA

## READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

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### Sermon: *"Scattered but Not Silenced"*

Acts 8:1a–6, 12

A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria. <sup>2</sup> (Some devout men came and buried Stephen with great mourning.)

<sup>3</sup> But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison.

<sup>4</sup> But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. <sup>5</sup> Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. <sup>6</sup> Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did.

Now the people believed Philip's message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized.

Acts 8:26–38

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza." <sup>27</sup> So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>29</sup> The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage."

<sup>30</sup> Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

<sup>31</sup> The man replied, "How can I, unless someone instructs me?" And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup> The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.  
And as a lamb is silent before the shearers,  
he did not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> He was humiliated and received no justice.  
Who can speak of his descendants?  
For his life was taken from the earth."

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?" <sup>35</sup> So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup> As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?" <sup>38</sup> He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

<sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

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*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

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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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### IN CHRIST ALONE

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In Christ alone my hope is found;  
He is my light, my strength, my song.  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground:  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease:  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied,  
For every sin on Him was laid,  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,  
Up from the grave He rose again.  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine,  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
 Can ever pluck me from His hand,  
 Till He returns or calls me home,  
 Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

*"In Christ Alone" by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.  
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## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

## CALENDAR

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TODAY              | Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor)<br>Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Tuesday, Oct. 27   | Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Wednesday, Oct. 28 | Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)<br>Coffee and Study (1:00 – 2:00)<br>Soup and Study (6:00 – 7:45)<br><i>The Goodness of God</i><br>(Week 2: <i>Noticing God's Goodness</i> )                                                                                                                                                    |
| Saturday, Oct. 31  | Halloween "Coffee for Parents" (5:00 – 8:00)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Sunday, Nov. 1     | Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| LOOKING AHEAD      | November 4 – November 18:<br>Coffee/Soup and Study (Wed. study series, 1:00/6:00 pm)<br><i>The Goodness of God: God Is Good When Life Isn't</i><br>Sunday – Friday, November 1–6: Crafts Dropoff<br>Saturday, November 7, 5:00–7:00:<br>Spaghetti Dinner/Craft Fair Fundraiser<br>Sunday, November 22: Thanksgiving Potluck |

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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](mailto:chuck@aberdeenpres.org)  
 Church Office: 360.532.1330 / [office@aberdeenpres.org](mailto:office@aberdeenpres.org)  
 Office Hours: 12 pm – 4 pm (Wednesday – Friday)

[aberdeenpres.org](http://aberdeenpres.org)