

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 10 am

"When you grant a blessing, O LORD, it is an eternal blessing!" (1 Chronicles 17:27)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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AS THE DEER

As the deer panteth for the water,
So my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship Thee.

*You alone are my strength my shield;
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee.*

You're my friend and You are my brother,
Even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other,
So much more than anything. *[Refrain]*

I want You more than gold or silver,
Only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joygiver,
And the apple of my eye. *[Refrain]*

*"As the Deer" by Martin Nystrom.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on his law day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither.

Everything they do shall prosper.

The LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
so Lord, we cry out for your help to obey all your ways.

Come, let us worship the Lord together!

Based on Psalm 1.

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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]*

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 pardon all who truly repent and turn to you
 and so we come, now, to confess our sins and ask for your mercy.

We so often stray from your ways like lost sheep,
 following the leading and desires of our own hearts.

We too seldom love you with a pure heart;

We find it hard to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We too quickly forget your call to be passionate for justice,
 to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.

Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.
 In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.

Create in us a clean heart, O God,
 and renew a right spirit within us.

Do not remove us from your presence,
 or take your Holy Spirit from us.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation
 and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Based on Isaiah 53:6, Micah 6:8, and Psalm 51:10-12)

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

CHOIR: *IF YOU SEARCH WITH ALL YOUR HEART*

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

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

Matthew 5:1–16

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.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

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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HYMN #467: HOW GREAT THOU ART

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
 Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
 I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
 Thy power throughout the universe displayed;

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
 How great Thou art, How great Thou art!
 Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
 How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
 I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
 When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
 And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *[Refrain]*

But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
 Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,
 That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
 He bled and died to take away my sin; *[Refrain]*

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
 And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
 Then I shall bow in humble adoration
 And there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!" *[Refrain]*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Tuesday, Jan. 20	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30) Worship at Channel Point (10:30) Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
Wednesday, Jan. 21	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Sunday, Jan. 25	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
LOOKING AHEAD	February 1: Congregational Meeting (Fellowship Hall, after service) February 18: Ash Wednesday Service (Fellowship Meal at 6:00; Service at 6:30)

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