

# *Worship at First Presbyterian Church*

*Sunday, March 8, 2026 at 10 am*

*"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." (Matthew 5:8)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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HYMN #140: *HOLY, HOLY*

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Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty;  
And we lift our hearts before You as a token of our love,  
Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy.

Gracious Father, Gracious Father,  
We're so blest to be Your children, Gracious Father.  
And we lift our heads before You as a token of our love,  
Gracious Father, Gracious Father.

Precious Jesus, Precious Jesus,  
We're so glad that You've redeemed us, Precious Jesus.  
And we lift our hands before You as a token of our love,  
Precious Jesus, Precious Jesus.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,  
come and fill our hearts anew, Holy Spirit;  
And we lift our voice before You as a token of our love,  
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.

*"Holy, Holy" by Jimmy Owens.*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

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Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.  
We come with open hearts,  
seeking the face of the Lord,  
delighting in God's truth, God's goodness, and God's glory.

**We rejoice in the God who purifies and restores,  
and whose presence fills us with light, hope, and joy.**

Come, all who long to see the beauty of the Lord;  
Lift your hearts in worship before the Holy One,  
who calls us, too, to be holy and pure.

With glad and reverent hearts,  
we praise our God who is faithful forever!

Amen.

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HYMN #455: *ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING* (verses 1–2, 6)

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All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,  
O sing ye! Alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All creatures, your Creator bless,  
And worship God in humbleness.  
O sing ye! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *AND* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

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Lord, we confess that our hearts are divided—  
we want you, and we want other things;  
we love you, but we love ourselves—the way we are—more.

We do good deeds to be seen by others;  
we harbor secret thoughts that contradict our public lives.  
We offer worship while our minds are far from you;  
we fail to desire your will above all else.

We are not pure in heart.  
Forgive us, Lord.

Cleanse our hearts,  
reorder our desires,  
and in your love make us whole  
that we may see you and live by your truth,  
through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Now hear our personal and private prayers . . . .

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

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*BLEST ARE THE PURE IN HEART*

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Blest are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see their God;  
the secret of the Lord is theirs,  
their soul is Christ's abode.

The Lord, who left the heavens  
our life and peace to bring,  
to dwell in lowliness with us,  
our pattern and our King;

Still to the lowly soul  
Himself He will impart,  
and for His dwelling and His throne  
chooses the pure in heart.

Lord, we Your presence seek—  
we ask this blessing, too;  
give us a pure and lowly heart,  
a temple meet for You.

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*READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD*

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

Matthew 5:1–10

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

He said:

<sup>3</sup> Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

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

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

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

## Psalm 24:1–6

*A psalm of David.*

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it.  
The world and all its people belong to him.

<sup>2</sup> For he laid the earth's foundation on the seas  
and built it on the ocean depths.

<sup>3</sup> Who may climb the mountain of the LORD?  
Who may stand in his holy place?

<sup>4</sup> Only those whose hands and hearts are pure,  
who do not worship idols  
and never tell lies.

<sup>5</sup> They will receive the LORD's blessing  
and have a right relationship with God their savior.

<sup>6</sup> Such people may seek you  
and worship in your presence, O God of Jacob.

## Jeremiah 31:33–34

"But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days," says the LORD. "I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. <sup>34</sup> And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the LORD.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already," says the LORD. "And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

## Proverbs 22:11

Whoever loves a pure heart and gracious speech  
will have the king as a friend.

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 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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HYMN #391: *TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE*

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Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee,  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing  
Always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee,  
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold;  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect, and use  
Every power as Thou shalt choose,  
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine;  
It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is Thine own;  
It shall be Thy royal throne,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee,  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

## CALENDAR

TODAY	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary) Potluck (after the service)
Tuesday, Mar. 10	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Wednesday, Mar. 11	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30) Soup and Study: <i>Reel Jesus: Christ in Film</i> Coffee and Study (1:00 pm) Soup and Study (6:00 pm)
Thursday, Mar. 12	Session (7:00 pm)
Saturday, Mar. 14	Pat Hole Memorial Service (11:00 am) <i>Creation Station delayed until March 21 (11:00 am – 1:00 pm)</i>
Sunday, Mar. 15	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
LOOKING AHEAD	Sunday, March 29: Palm Sunday/Easter Cantata Thursday, April 2: Maundy Thursday Service (6:30 – 8:00 pm) Sunday, April 5: EASTER SUNDAY

## Church Financial Update (through February)

Actual Expenses to Date: \$ 37,135    ☞    Giving to Date: \$ 23,517

*Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our church and its mission!*

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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: 10 am – 2 pm (Monday, Wednesday – Friday)

aberdeenpres.org