

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 13, 2026 at 10 am

*"And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—
in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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HE HAS MADE ME GLAD

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart;
I will enter His courts with praise.
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made;
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

*He has made me glad; He has made me glad.
I will rejoice for He has made me glad;
He has made me glad; He has made me glad.
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.*

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart;
I will enter His courts with praise.
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made;
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.

"He Has Made Me Glad" by Leona Von Brethorst.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise!
He is to be feared above all gods.

Honor and majesty surround him;
strength and beauty fill his sanctuary.

O nations of the world, recognize the LORD;
recognize that the LORD is glorious and strong.

Give to the LORD the glory he deserves!
Bring your offering and come into his courts.

Worship the LORD in all his holy splendor.
Let all the earth tremble before him.
Tell everyone, "The LORD reigns!"

Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice!
Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise!

Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy!
Let the trees of the forest sing for joy

before the LORD, for he is coming!
Let us worship the LORD in all his holy splendor.

Based on Psalm 96:4–13.

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HYMN #276: GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *[Refrain]*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *[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 have given us new birth through the work of the Holy Spirit.
You made us your children, you welcomed us into your household,
you clothed us with grace, and you reconciled us to yourself.

Yet we confess that we do not always live as people made new.

We 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.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

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.

Hear, now, our personal and private prayers . . .

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

CHOIR: WALKING IN SUNLIGHT

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"The Story Continues . . ."*

Luke 1:1–4

Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. ² They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. ³ Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, ⁴ so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.

Acts 1:1–8

In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. ³ During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

⁴ Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. ⁵ John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"

⁷ He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

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

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	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary) Potluck (after the service)
Tuesday, Sept. 15	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30) Worship at Channel Point (10:30) Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
Wednesday, Sept. 16	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Thursday, Sept. 17	Deacons' Meeting (2:00 pm)
Sunday, Sept. 20	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
LOOKING AHEAD	Halloween "Coffee for Parents" (Friday, October 31) Spaghetti Dinner / Craft Fair Fundraiser (Saturday, November 6) Soup and Study (Wednesday night study series: TBA)

We have hearing assistance device/headphones for those who could use a bit of a "volume boost" during the services. You will find them in a drawer, in the table where you pick up your bulletin. If you need help finding them, ask!

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