

# *Worship at First Presbyterian Church*

*Sunday, February 22, 2026 at 10 am*

*"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." (Matthew 5:7)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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## *COME PEOPLE OF THE RISEN KING*

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Come people of the Risen King,  
Who delight to bring Him praise;  
Come all, and tune your hearts to sing  
To the Morning Star of grace.  
From the shifting shadows of the earth,  
We will lift our eyes to Him,  
Where steady arms of mercy reach,  
To gather children in.

*Rejoice, rejoice! Let ev'ry tongue rejoice!  
One heart, one voice;  
O Church of Christ, rejoice!*

Come those whose joy is morning sun,  
And those weeping through the night;  
Come those who tell of battles won,  
And those struggling in the fight.  
For His perfect love will never change,  
And His mercies never cease,  
But follow us through all our days,  
With the certain hope of peace. *[Refrain]*

Come young and old from ev'ry land,  
Men and women of the faith;  
Come those with full or empty hands,  
Find the riches of His grace.  
Over all the world, His people sing;  
Shore to shore we hear them call  
The truth that cries through ev'ry age:  
Our God is all in all. *[Refrain]*

*"Come People of the Risen King" by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Stuart Townend  
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

## CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

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Come, people of God, and hear the words of Jesus:  
Blessed are the merciful,  
For they will receive mercy.

We acknowledge the mercy we have received from God.  
 We come to learn how to extend that same mercy  
 to our neighbors and our enemies.

To be merciful is to see the pain of another  
 and choose to respond with love.

To be merciful is to lift up the weary,  
 to walk patiently with the brokenhearted.

To be merciful is to act with tenderness  
 in a world that often rewards hardness.

To be merciful is to lay down judgment and take up grace.

Let's worship the Triune God—  
 receiving the Father's mercy, following the Son's compassion,  
 and relying on the Spirit to renew our hearts.

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HYMN #298: *THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY*

There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
 Like the wideness of the sea;  
 There's a kindness in God's justice,  
 Which is more than liberty.  
 There is no place where earth's sorrows  
 Are more felt than up in heaven;  
 There is no place where earth's failings  
 Have such kindly judgment given.  
 For the love of God is broader  
 Than the measures of the mind;  
 And the heart of the Eternal  
 Is most wonderfully kind.  
 If our love were but more faithful,  
 We would gladly trust God's word;  
 And our lives reflect thanksgiving  
 For the goodness of our Lord.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION *AND* ASSURANCE OF PARDON  
*(You are invited to join in unison with the pastor, or to follow along in silence)*

God of compassion,  
 we treasure the mercy you show us,  
 yet we have been reluctant to forgive,  
 slow to show kindness,  
 and quick to claim our rights.  
 We confess that we have withheld mercy,  
 harbored resentment,  
 and judged others harshly,  
 forgetting how richly we have been forgiven.

Forgive us, Lord, for our hard-heartedness.  
Renew us in your mercy,  
teaching us to extend grace as freely as we have received it,  
and empower us by your Spirit to live as agents of your compassion.

Help us to be mirrors of your mercy,  
**reflecting to the world the same compassion we have received in Christ.**

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

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HYMN #341: *BLESSED ASSURANCE*

Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels, descending, bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *[Refrain]*

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with His goodness, lost in His love. *[Refrain]*

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READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

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

Matthew 5:1–7 (NIV)

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.

Micah 6:6–8

What can we bring to the LORD?

Should we bring him burnt offerings?

Should we bow before God Most High  
with offerings of yearling calves?

<sup>7</sup> Should we offer him thousands of rams  
and ten thousand rivers of olive oil?

Should we sacrifice our firstborn children  
to pay for our sins?

<sup>8</sup> No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good,  
and this is what he requires of you:

to do what is right, to love mercy,  
and to walk humbly with your God.

Zechariah 7:8–10

Then this message came to Zechariah from the LORD: <sup>9</sup> "This is what the LORD of  
Heaven's Armies says: Judge fairly, and show mercy and kindness to one another. <sup>10</sup>  
Do not oppress widows, orphans, foreigners, and the poor. And do not scheme  
against each other.

Colossians 3:12

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with  
tenderhearted mercy . . . .

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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.

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#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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#### HYMN #422: GOD WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING

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God, whose giving knows no ending,  
From Your rich and endless store,  
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
Costly cross, grave's shattered door:  
Gifted by You, we turn to You,  
Offering up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever,  
Gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing  
Toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
All at peace in health and freedom,  
Races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
Lest we strive for self alone;  
Born with talents, make us servants  
Fit to answer at Your throne.

Treasure too You have entrusted,  
Gain through powers Your grace conferred;  
Ours to use for home and kindred,  
And to spread the gospel Word.  
Open wide our hands, in sharing,  
As we heed Christ's ageless call,  
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
Serving You by loving all.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

## CALENDAR

TODAY	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Tuesday, Feb. 24	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Wednesday, Feb. 25	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Sunday, Mar. 1	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship: 10:50 am Joining United Christian Church to dedicate their renewed facility 300 West 1 <sup>st</sup> St, Aberdeen (10.50 am)
LOOKING AHEAD	March 7: US Air Force Band Ensemble Concert: <i>Sierra Winds</i> Woodwind Quintet (7:00 pm) March 4, 11, 18, 25: <i>Reel Jesus: Christ in the Movies</i> Coffee and Study (1:00 in Fellowship Hall) Soup and Study (6:00 in Fellowship Hall)

Chuck will be on vacation this week, and out of town. If there's a need for pastoral care, please call the church office (360.532.1330), or Aries cell (503-730-6718).

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