

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 23, 2025 at 10 am

*"Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious,
yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey's colt." (Zechariah 9:9)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

★

GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son.

*And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
Let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.*

*And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
Let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.*

Give thanks!

*"Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart," by Henry Smith.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Give thanks to the Lord, our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer.

We remember the mercy of God, who is gracious and compassionate.

God has called us to faith in Christ,
has placed His Spirit within us,
and has given us the mind of Christ.

God has gathered us into His Church and welcomes us into His kingdom.

Thanks be to God!

Give thanks to the Lord, who satisfies the thirsty,
fills the hungry with good things, and heals the afflicted.

Let us celebrate the abundant goodness of our God.

Our gracious Father provides for our daily needs—
 food to sustain our bodies, water to refresh us,
 clothing to cover us, and homes that shelter and protect.
 God grants us work to do, strength to labor, and rest to renew us.

Let us give thanks for blessings beyond our needs—
 for harvests that overflow,
 for tools that aid our work,
 for knowledge and creativity,
 for medicines that bring healing,
 for technology that connects and supports,
 for beauty in creation, music, art,
 and the warmth of human friendship.

Every good and perfect gift comes from the Lord,
 who is rich in mercy and abounding in steadfast love.

Thanks be to God!

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HYMN #555: *NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD*

Now thank we all our God
 With heart and hands and voices,
 Who wondrous things hath done,
 In whom this world rejoices;
 Who, from our mothers' arms
 Hath blessed us on our way
 With countless gifts of love,
 And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
 Through all our life be near us,
 With ever joyful hearts
 And blessed peace to cheer us;
 And keep us in His grace,
 And guide us when perplexed,
 And free us from all ills
 In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God,
 Who reigns in highest heaven,
 To Father and to Son
 And Spirit now be given.
 The one eternal God,
 Whom earth and heaven adore,
 The God who was, and is,
 And shall be evermore.

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

Loving God, we gather today,
 rich in the blessing of the many good gifts you give us.
 Today we thank you for all of them.

But we confess that sometimes
 we act as if we merit the wealth and comforts we enjoy;
 we love the gifts more than we love you;
 and too often we're driven by our desire for more and more:
 food, clothes, toys, and money.

Forgive us for not being content and thankful.

Forgive our selfishness.

Forgive us, for comfortably closing our eyes to those in real need.

We also know that you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all.

We confess that we are slow to bow before him,
 slow to acknowledge his rule.

We too easily give allegiance to the powers of this world.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all,
 that we may be loyal ambassadors,
 obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Help us to love you more than everything else.

Help us to be thankful always.

Help our hearts to be full of both thanks and giving.

Help us to see your gifts to us as gifts for us to share.

Hear, now, our private and personal confessions

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

CHOIR: *COME TO THE TABLE*

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"The Paradox of Christ as King"*

Jeremiah 23:5–6

"The time is coming," says the LORD,
 "when I will raise up a righteous descendant
 from King David's line.

He will be a King who rules with wisdom.

He will do what is just and right throughout the land.

⁶ And this will be his name:

'The LORD Is Our Righteousness.'

In that day Judah will be saved,
 and Israel will live in safety."

Colossians 1:11-20

We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, ¹² always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

¹⁵ Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,

¹⁶ for through him God created everything

in the heavenly realms and on earth.

He made the things we can see

and the things we can't see—

such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.

Everything was created through him and for him.

¹⁷ He existed before anything else,

and he holds all creation together.

¹⁸ Christ is also the head of the church,

which is his body.

He is the beginning,

supreme over all who rise from the dead.

So he is first in everything.

¹⁹ For God in all his fullness

was pleased to live in Christ,

²⁰ and through him God reconciled

everything to himself.

He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth

by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

Revelation 19:11-16

Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. ¹² His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. ¹³ He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. ¹⁶ On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

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 #151: CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

Crown Him with many crowns,
 The Lamb upon His throne;
 Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
 All music but its own!
 Awake, my soul, and sing
 Of Him who died for thee,
 And hail Him as thy matchless King
 Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love;
 Behold His hands and side,
 Rich wounds, yet visible above,
 In beauty glorified:
 No angel in the sky
 Can fully bear that sight,
 But downward bends his burning eye
 At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace;
 Whose power a scepter sways
 From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
 Absorbed in prayer and praise:
 His reign shall know no end;
 And round His piercèd feet
 Fair flowers of paradise extend
 Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of years,
 The Potentate of time;
 Creator of the rolling spheres,
 Ineffably sublime.
 All hail, Redeemer, hail!
 For Thou has died for me;
 Thy praise shall never, never fail
 Throughout eternity.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary) Potluck (after the service)
Tuesday, Nov. 25	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Wednesday, Nov. 26	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Sunday, Nov. 30	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i> Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary) Sharing Table (before and after the service)
LOOKING AHEAD	Advent, and Christmas, is coming! Here's what will be going on at First Presbyterian Church
December 6:	Greening of the Church (9:00 am) Christmas Open House and Tree Lighting (6:30 pm)
December 7:	Second Sunday of Advent
December 14:	Third Sunday of Advent
December 21:	Fourth Sunday of Advent Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service (5:00 pm)
December 24:	Family Christmas Eve Service (5:00 pm) Traditional Candlelight Service (10:00 pm)

We'd like to welcome United Christian Church to our service (and potluck!) today. Their church restoration is coming to an end, but they'll be worshipping downstairs for a few more weeks.

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