

# *Worship at First Presbyterian Church*

*Sunday, August 30, 2026 at 10 am*

*"Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities,  
against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."  
(Ephesians 6:12, NIV)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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## *AS THE DEER*

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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)*

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We will give thanks to you, O LORD, with our whole heart;  
we will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

We will be glad and exult in you;  
we will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

You, Lord, are a refuge for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of trouble.

Those who know you put their trust in you,  
for you, Lord, never forsake those who seek you.

Come, let us worship our loving and saving God together.

*Based on Psalm 9:1-2, 9-10.*

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HYMN #476: O WORSHIP THE KING

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O worship the King, all glorious above!  
 O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;  
 Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
 Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,  
 Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,  
 His chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,  
 And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,  
 Almighty, Thy power hath founded of old;  
 Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,  
 And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
 It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
 And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
 In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;  
 Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
 Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

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ANCIENT WORDS

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Holy words long preserved  
 For our walk in this world,  
 They resound with God's own heart,  
 O let the ancient words impart.

Words of life, words of hope,  
 Give us strength, help us cope.  
 In this world where'er we roam,  
 Ancient words will guide us home.

*Ancient words, ever true,  
 Changing me and changing you.  
 We have come with open hearts,  
 O let the ancient words impart.*

Holy words of our faith,  
 Handed down to this age,  
 Came to us through sacrifice.  
 O heed the faithful words of Christ.

Holy words long preserved,  
for our walk in this world,  
they resound with God's own heart.  
O let the ancient words impart. *[Refrain, twice]*

*"Ancient Words" by Lynn DeShazo.*

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## READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

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Sermon: *"If God Is Good, Why Is the World So (Often) Bad?"*

Habakkuk 1:2–4

How long, O LORD, must I call for help? But you do not listen!  
"Violence is everywhere!" I cry, but you do not come to save.  
Must I forever see these evil deeds? Why must I watch all this misery?  
Wherever I look, I see destruction and violence.

I am surrounded by people who love to argue and fight.  
The law has become paralyzed, and there is no justice in the courts.  
The wicked far outnumber the righteous, so that justice has become perverted.

Psalms 73:1–12

*A psalm of Asaph.*

- <sup>1</sup> Truly God is good to Israel,  
to those whose hearts are pure.
- <sup>2</sup> But as for me, I almost lost my footing.  
My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone.
- <sup>3</sup> For I envied the proud  
when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness.
- <sup>4</sup> They seem to live such painless lives;  
their bodies are so healthy and strong.
- <sup>5</sup> They don't have troubles like other people;  
they're not plagued with problems like everyone else.
- <sup>6</sup> They wear pride like a jeweled necklace  
and clothe themselves with cruelty.
- <sup>7</sup> These fat cats have everything  
their hearts could ever wish for!
- <sup>8</sup> They scoff and speak only evil;  
in their pride they seek to crush others.
- <sup>9</sup> They boast against the very heavens,  
and their words strut throughout the earth.
- <sup>10</sup> And so the people are dismayed and confused,  
drinking in all their words.
- <sup>11</sup> "What does God know?" they ask.  
"Does the Most High even know what's happening?"
- <sup>12</sup> Look at these wicked people—  
enjoying a life of ease while their riches multiply.

## Romans 8:18–23, 35–39

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. <sup>19</sup> For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. <sup>20</sup> Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, <sup>21</sup> the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. <sup>22</sup> For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering.

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? . . . <sup>37</sup> No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

<sup>38</sup> And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. <sup>39</sup> No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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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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 CHRIST, THE SURE AND STEADY ANCHOR
 

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Christ, the sure and steady anchor,  
In the fury of the storm;  
When the winds of doubt blow through me,  
And my sails have all been torn,  
In the suffering, in the sorrow,  
When my sinking hopes are few,  
I will hold fast to the anchor,  
It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor,  
While the tempest rages on;  
When temptation claims the battle,  
And it seems the night has won,

Deeper still then goes the anchor,  
Though I justly stand accused,  
I will hold fast to the anchor,  
It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor,  
Through the floods of unbelief;  
Hopeless somehow, O my soul, now,  
Lift your eyes to Calvary.  
This my ballast of assurance,  
See His love forever proved,  
I will hold fast to the anchor,  
It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor,  
As we face the wave of death;  
When these trials give way to glory,  
And we draw our final breath,  
We will cross that great horizon,  
Clouds behind and life secure,  
And the calm will be the better,  
For the storms that we've endured.

Christ, the shore of our salvation,  
Ever faithful, ever true,  
We will hold fast to the anchor,  
It shall never be removed.

*"Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor" by Matthew Boswell and Matthew Papa.*

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

## CALENDAR

|                    |                                                                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TODAY              | Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)<br>Sharing Table (before and after service) |
| Tuesday, Sept. 1   | Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)<br>Worship at Channel Point (10:30)                       |
| Wednesday, Sept. 2 | Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)                                                         |
| Sunday, Sept. 6    | Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary)                              |
| LOOKING AHEAD      | New sermon series on the book of Acts begins on September 13                        |

Our church supports a supper served to the homeless every Tuesday evening at Kaleo Church through an annual spaghetti-dinner fundraiser, and with volunteers from our church. If you'd like to know more about *The Calling*, John or Leslie O'Brien (who lead the ministry) would be happy to tell you more!

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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](mailto:chuck@aberdeenpres.org)

Church Office: 360.532.1330 / [office@aberdeenpres.org](mailto:office@aberdeenpres.org)

Office Hours: 12 pm – 4 pm (Wednesday – Friday)

[aberdeenpres.org](http://aberdeenpres.org)