



SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 am
October 11, 2020

“Wealth is the ability to fully experience life.”

-- Henry David Thoreau

Our Mission Statement

Called to love God and one another, First Presbyterian Church responds to God's grace by following Christ with ministries of hospitality, worship, faith development, service and generosity.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

We're glad you're here with us today. We fondly refer to this community of Christ-followers as "First Pres," and you being here is one of God's blessings for our fellowship. If you wonder what we're up to at First Pres, it's actually pretty simple. In fact, we use a short phrase to remind ourselves of our shared purpose: "Above all, love." Drawn from a New Testament text (1 Peter 4:8-11), those brief words challenge us to focus everything we do on loving God and loving every single person we encounter. So every day we're learning how to do just that, as God's Spirit keeps working in our lives.

By the way, we can't take credit for this idea. It goes as far back as Jesus. He was once asked to sum up what it looks like to really be alive; what we should aim for in our lives if we want to live as fully as we can. His answer? Love God with every fiber of your being, and love the people around you.

Welcome

Prelude

*Sacred Harp Medley
arr. Brant Adam*

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

His steadfast love endures forever!

Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people;
help me when you deliver them.

**That I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
that I may glory in your heritage.**

Hymn #475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Nettleton

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, life gets so busy and we get so distracted,
that we forget to pause and reflect on your many gifts.**

**Help us to think on those things that break down our barriers
and build up our relationships.**

**Grant us patience and courage to forgive,
and to accept forgiveness**

for the many times we are the source of another's frustration.

Draw us all together in a sense of common life and shared ministry.

Give us the grace to accept your invitation and call gratefully

and, in accepting them, to live every moment in the light of your love for us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God is faithful and just, if we confess our sins, to forgive us and restore us.

God has heard us before, and will hear us now.

God is ever ready to heal the broken and connect the estranged.

So, rejoice! For you are blessed by God!

In Jesus Christ we all are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen!

Response

Meineke

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith

(Confession of 1967)

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself.

Jesus Christ is God with humankind.

He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.

Children's Message

Ministry Updates

Message from the Session

Bob Smith, Chair, Finance Committee

Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:1-9

Special Music

In the Garden/What a Friend We Have in Jesus
arr. Brant Adam

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offertory

Andante Cantabile from Sonata KV. 311
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

“Faithfully Connected” Story

Hymn #36

For the Fruit of All Creation
Ar Hydy Nos

Scripture Reading

Matthew 22:1-14

Sermon

“God Doesn’t Want Your Money”

Rev. Bob Sheldon

Hymn #716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
Beach Spring

Blessing

Response

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Postlude

Improvisation on God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

FIRST PRES MATTERS

Leading us in worship today are Rev. Bob Sheldon, Interim Pastor; Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor; Sándor Kádár, Director of Music; Kira Boros, Choir Accompanist; Tracy Burke, flute and Julie Claeys, piano.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Barb Snyder and family in the death of Barb's uncle.

Our next Zoom coffee hour is today at 10:00 a.m. This is a chance to connect with other church members and meet our new Interim Pastor, Rev. Bob Sheldon. The Zoom link will be on our Worship Live page Sunday morning (firstpreswc.com/live) and in the Facebook Live comments during the 9 a.m. service.

October Anti-Racism Conversation - All members of the First Pres community are invited to join the Christian Faith & Issues class for an Anti-Racism Conversation on Zoom from noon - 1 pm on Sunday, October 18. This monthly meeting is a chance for people to share what they are learning about racism in our country and community and to encourage one another as we seek to speak, think and act in anti-racist ways. The Zoom link will be available at www.firstpreswc.com/racial-justice or by contacting Sara Pantazes at spantazes@firstpreswc.com.

Let us know – As local hospitals slowly ease visiting restrictions, we are anticipating a gradual return of the Agape visitation ministry. If you anticipate a hospital stay or have a loved one who is hospitalized and a visit, call, or card would be of comfort, please contact Ellen Landis (elandis60@gmail.com) or Judy Mackleer (judymackleer@verizon.net).



The above shows the giving amount as of 10/7/2020 compared to the 2020 full year goal. This chart will be presented each week to keep the congregation well-informed of our progress. Further details can be found on the Financial Reporting page on our website.