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## SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 am  
September 13, 2020

*When you start with an understanding that God loves everyone,  
justice isn't very far behind.*

– Dr. Emilie Townes

## **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

Rondeau  
*Jean Joseph Mouret*

Call to Worship

People of God, bless the Lord,  
**bless God's holy name.**  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
**so great is God's steadfast love for us.**  
Come, let us worship the Lord!

Hymn #363

Rejoice, the Lord Is King  
*Darwall's 148th*

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, we confess that we have failed to live in harmony  
with our sisters and brothers.  
We have been self-righteous in our attitudes,  
closed-minded in our beliefs,  
and judgmental in our opinions.  
We have shunned those whose ways we do not understand,  
and we have despised those who do not endorse our convictions.  
Forgive our sins of discord and conceit,  
and heal our divisiveness and quarreling.  
Help us to be charitable toward others  
that we may dwell in peace with Christ,  
who is Lord of all. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are pardoned.  
In our forgiveness, may we blossom with purpose and resolve,  
so that the world will know us by our love. Amen.**

Response

**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.**

Meineke

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

Ministry Updates

Scripture Reading                      Leviticus 25:8-10, 35-36, 39-43

Special Music    My Spirit Be Joyful  
Johann Sebastian Bach

Offertory    Allegro con Spirito from Sonata KV. 311  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Hymn #409    God Is Here!  
Abbot's Leigh

Scripture Reading                      Romans 14:1-12

Sermon    "Turning Towards Home"                      Rev. Caroline Cupp

Anthem    Sing, Ye Righteous Unto the Lord  
Lodovico Viadana

*Sing, ye righteous unto the Lord, and exalt in song the Lord of hosts!*  
*Praise Him, praise ye the Lord above, o praise his name.*  
*Sing, rejoice in the Lord and exalt Him, praise Him ye people.*  
*Sing ye a new song, sing ye praise and in harmony exalt Him!*  
*Sing, ye righteous unto the Lord, and exalt in song the Lord of hosts!*

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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.**

Hymn #643

Now Thank We All Our God  
*Nun Danket Alle Gott*

Blessing

Response

Seven Fold Amen

Postlude

Fanfare  
*George Frideric Handel*

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## FIRST PRES MATTERS

**Leading us in worship** today are Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor; Sándor Kádár, Director of Music; Kira Boros, Choir Accompanist; Ron Ford and Evan Roberts, trumpet; Lyndsay Varsaci, soprano; Michael Spaziani, baritone.

**The Chancel Flowers** are given by the church staff in appreciation of our congregation members and friends.

**Our sympathy and prayers** are with Glenn and Gretchen Huebner and family in the death of Gretchen's parents, Frederick and Kathleen Pflieger.

**Zoom Coffee Hour - Today!** Join us on Zoom starting at 10 a.m. this morning for a congregation-wide coffee hour. We hope that you will attend to see many faces that you haven't seen in a while. The Zoom link is posted on the church's Worship Live web page, on Facebook, and in yesterday's email. We can't wait to catch up with you!

**Family Service Project Today** - To celebrate a new year, First Pres families are invited to gather at church, in stages, this afternoon from 1 – 3 p.m. for an easy service project. Parents and kids will be outside planting flowers in pots and coloring cards, which our friends from the First Pres choir will then deliver to some of the members of our church. If you haven't already signed up for a time to attend, it's not too late. Call or text Sara Pantazes at (757) 619-1798 to be part of the fun.

**Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study Starting This Week** - The Wednesday night adult Bible study class will resume this Wednesday, September 16 at 6: 30 p.m. on Zoom. We will begin this program year with a 6-week study of *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven* by Amy-Jill Levine. The text may seem familiar, but this thought-provoking study will frame Jesus' instructions in a new light and "provide instruction on how best to live into the kingdom of heaven." Participants are encouraged (but not required) to purchase the book for this study. If you wish to join the email list for this study group, please contact Sara Pantazes, Director of Christian Education, at [spantazes@firstpreswc.com](mailto: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](mailto:elandis60@gmail.com)) or Judy Mackleer ([judymackleer@verizon.net](mailto:judymackleer@verizon.net)).

**Like to knit?** A group is forming of knitters and stitchers of all experience levels. Experts and novices welcome! Meeting days and times will be determined based on interest. To learn more, contact Trisha Minicozzi at [knitknitgoose@gmail.com](mailto:knitknitgoose@gmail.com).



The above shows the giving amount as of 9/9/2020 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.