

The Worship of God
Season of Creation, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026 – 9:00 Morning Worship
Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!

PRELUDE

“Deep River”

Adolphus Hailstork

WELCOME

GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

See the clouds part on this new day
and the colorful bow that reaches across the sky
as a sign of welcome and promise.

Come to remember that that promise reaches to the forest and the land.

It runs through the wilderness, and gushes up from the river,
where we might see that colorful reflection.

Let us quake with anticipation and wonder,
feeling the water tickle our toes and call us into the fullness of life.

You and I, let us ride on the rapids of hope.

Let us find the beauty and wonder in being so connected to creation.

OPENING PRAYER

Flow with us, God, through the loud rushing rapids
and among the deep silent pools.

Acknowledge our many sources and outlets for sharing our gifts
as we come together to find all that bubbles up in your wisdom.

**Move us into the current of your creative energy
as we immerse ourselves in worship and praise
with the river as our guide.**

Amen.

SING

“Rain Down”

#48

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Each drop of water is so sacred. We squander it and waste it.
We let the tap run as if floods will always surge.
We hear the river gurgle in protest.

Bright as crystal, clear as day, the river assures us that water is life,
but we treat this gift as carelessly as we treat our own lives.
We don’t value ourselves, so we fail to see the wonder in your creation, O God.

We are sorry for polluting your streams.

We are sorry for endangering the creatures swimming in your waters.

**We are sorry for the arrogance that has prevented us from
respecting the river’s might.**

We hear River gurgle in protest.
O God, forgive us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The rivers are made for flowing free – and so are our lives.
May God's forgiveness and transformation flow through and from us,
bringing life to us and all, now and always.

Amen.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

I invite you to turn to one another and share a sign of peace:
You're invited to unmute yourselves and exchange peace with one another

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Genesis 8:20-22, 9:12-17

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Revelation 22:1-5

...The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

The Reverend Susan Phillips

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SING

"Shall We Gather at the River"

#375

GIVING OUR GIFTS

WORLD COMMUNION

DOXOLOGY

"Alleluia!"

#587

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We are called to step out beyond our homes and to see this world,
to be adventurers who meditate on the vastness of this universe.
God, bless us and the gifts we bring to your vibrant, diverse world of life.
We are all on a lifelong journey to the heart of your presence.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD

SING

"When Peace Like a River"

#840

SHARED BENEDICTION

Let us go out into God's world in peace;
have courage; hold on to what is good;
return to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted;
support the weak; help the suffering; honor all persons;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

SENDING

POSTLUDE

“Toccata in E Minor”

Johann Pachelbel