

The Worship of God

Season of Creation, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 6, 2026 – 9:00 Morning Worship

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!

PRELUDE

“March in D Major”

George Frederic Handel

WELCOME

GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

From many different lands we gather on this land, in this place, at this time.

You are with us, Holy One.

God of the earth, the land, the sky;

in difficult times, on rocky ground,

when the landscape seems to have changed,

we gather to worship.

Find us, O God, shaped by the dust

grounded in hope and eager to grow.

You are with us.

OPENING PRAYER

SING

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

#203

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are dust.

We shall return to dust.

The land is filled with treasure.

We have taken treasure from the land and left it broken.

The land is rich to nourish and sustain.

We strip it of goodness, turning fertile plains into wastelands.

The land is plentiful and full of variety.

We fight for control.

From a desire for more, it becomes killing fields instead of sanctuary.

The land cries out in agony, and the people cry out in misery.

The land longs for mercy,

and the people yearn for comfort and care.

God, are you there? Do you care?

(Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God hears Land's cry and God hears our voices rise.

**Let us cry out for an end to the violence –
done to the earth and done to one another.**

There is no thing and no one and no place
outside or beyond the reach of God's care.

Let this be our song and our shared labor.

God's gift of forgiveness opens the way for transformation and life.

Thanks be to God for love that listens and grows.

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

Psalm 139:7-12

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Romans 5:12-17

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

REFLECTION

Reverend Susan Phillips

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SING

"Out of Deep, Unordered Water"

#484

DEDICATION OF THE FREE LIBRARY

GIVING OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY

"Alleluia!"

#587

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Come taste divine mystery.

Remember and believe how connected we are with all that God created.

The mystery that gathers us here is not easily seen.

It is hard to grasp but stories come to live in us and so we listen.

We listen for the great story of the One who loved the land
so much that his best stories were about the vines,
mustard seeds, and good soil.

Having been to the wilderness,
he gathered all that he knew and loved
around a table borrowed from the strength and wisdom of the forest
for the story to be tasted and seen in the goodness of God's creation.
It is the story that lives in us and grows with new meaning
each time we share in this communion.
Come and see.
Let us recognize divine mystery in our shared communion.

PRAYER

Holy Mystery, may your goodness flow through us
like the river of Life's redemption and justice.
With all of creation we look to you.
We look to you as the One from whom all things have sparked:
from subatomic particles to forested slopes,
from strands of DNA to the deepest ocean trenches.
We look to you as the One in whom all life holds together:
from the delicate balancing of soil and water and oxygen and light,
to the delicate balancing of personalities and faith, and values.

We look to you as the One who fashions this table in multiple places
but with singular purpose: to offer an invitation and gather all,
to offer unlimited forgiveness, to offer vocation with Christ.
May all creation be blessed in this meal as a reminder of life shared
with and for others, and of community fashioned, celebrating our differences,
and rooted in the truth that all are one in you.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION IS SHARED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD

SING

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

#611

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

Go from this place into the land beloved of God.

Tread lightly on the land so that your footprints may not harm.

Touch gently with your hands that healing may bring hope.

Tremble softly in anticipation of the Spirit's presence.

Transform each life with love in every time and place.

We go as people beloved and transforming.

POSTLUDE

"Toccata for a Joyful Day"

Emma Lou Diemer