

## The Worship of God

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 7, 2025 – 9:00 Morning Worship

**Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!**

PRELUDE

“Pastorale”

Mme. Bertault

WELCOME

### GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Creator, you are very great.

**Illumine this space with your majesty.**

Spirit, you make the winds your messengers and the flames your ministers.

**Inspire us with the freshness of air and brighten us with the passion of fire.**

Redeemer, you set a limit to the chaos.

**Guide us to the space where all may flourish and nothing is lost.**

Wisdom, your works are manifold.

**Let us worship your fullness in and with all creation.**

OPENING PRAYER

Creator of waves and swells, coral reefs and slippery fish,

we come again to worship and wonder

because we don’t have answers and we crave them.

**We want to know how deep and how wide**

**but more often just skim the surface of what you separated – the waters from the sky.**

Bring forth in us the swarms of possibility full of your goodness and grace.

Create in us this day wonder for Oceans and its deep wisdom.

**Amen.**

SING

“God of the Sparrow”

#22

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving Creator of all life,

who out of chaos formed the land and the seas,

your oceans are aching with the impact of our greed.

**The salt of Oceans is like that of tears shed by species**

**that are dying in warming waters.**

The reefs wave white flags of surrender – pale coral,

missing the colors of vitality with which it was born

now submerged in the silt of runoff and the results of our presence.

The distant depths, once pristine and protected by remoteness itself,

now labor, holding the waste from thousands of cruise ships

and uncountable single careless actions by unthinking people.

The seas are salted with tears.  
Oceans burdened with waste and warming temperatures.  
**Holy One, we confess our participation in these changes,  
and grieve the losses already happening in our created world.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

It is God who “laid the foundation of the earth,  
and who determined its measurements.”  
It is God who “set the cornerstone when the morning stars sang together.”  
It is God who “walked the recesses of the deep  
and entered the springs of the sea.”  
It is our God who heals and forgives.  
Our God wipes away our tears and invites us to swim  
into the deep possibility of transformation for Oceans and for ourselves.

#### 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 139:1-6, 13-18

##### SECOND SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 18:1-11

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

##### REFLECTION

Chaplain Tim Haworth

### RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

##### SING

“I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry”

#488

##### GIVING OUR GIFTS

##### DOXOLOGY

“Praise god, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

#609

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We dedicate ourselves anew, loving God, to the privilege of caring for creation.  
As we bring our gifts of money and time to our worship life,  
help us also to bring new understanding of Creation’s pain to our everyday lives.  
**Help us to affirm, in all we do, that it was and is you who have created all life,  
and that we are called today to try again to be good stewards of it all.**  
**Bless this worship we pray.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT

##### THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

**SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD**

SING

"God the Sculptor of the Mountains"

#5

**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 out into the big world knowing that we are connected by Oceans.  
Go with the rhythm of tides and seasons.  
Go with the power of the waves and wind.  
Seek the depths of God's love and the wonders that love contains.  
Go with the blessing of God who created us,  
connected us, loves us, and cares for us.  
Now and always.

**Amen.**

POSTLUDE

"Basse de Trompette"

Louis Couperin