

The Worship of God

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 23, 2026 – 9:00 Morning Worship

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!

PRELUDE

“Prelude in E-flat Major”

Alexandre Guilmant

WELCOME

GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

We did not first seek God. **God came looking for us.**

We do not find God. **It is God who finds us.**

Come, let us free ourselves of expectation and responsibility.

Let us find God here in our worship today.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we gather with singing,

Each of us with unique strengths and weaknesses.

**Thank you, God, for creating a space where we are accepted as we are,
where we can breathe, be honest, learn and grow.**

Thank you for meeting us here.

Thank you for our faith community.

**You teach and empower us to live together, to serve the gospel
and change the world with a love that does not end.**

Loving God, thank you.

Amen.

SING

“I Come With Joy”

#515

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving God, every minute of every day

the world asks us to compare ourselves with other people.

**We confess that we give in to this temptation,
sometimes feeling worse but most often feeling better than others.**

We ask you to forgive us.

May we dwell in your presence where each person and all people
reflect your love to one another and are inspired.

(silent personal prayers)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God’s promise to every generation

is to know that God is here for us in divine grace and love.

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

Matthew 16:13-20

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:1-8

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

REFLECTION

Chaplain Tim Haworth

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SING

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

#726

MOMENT FOR MISSION Shelter Meals

GIVING OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

#607

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We offer these gifts in our desire to live by your story
rather than someone else's.

**Help us to use them, dear God, to bring hope in despair and compassion
where there is distress.**

Bless these gifts and every gift we offer with your love.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD

SING

"May the God of Hope Go with Us"

#765

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

Siblings, go full of mercy, carrying peace,
abundant in generosity and steadfast in the work of love.

This is the work of justice.

It is shalom that we share.

Go into the world knowing God's goodness in your heart
and assured that you are loved.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Postlude: Menuet Finale"

G.F. Handel