

The Worship of God
Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 03, 2026 – 9:00 Morning Worship
Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Like the multi-hued pebbles gathered onto a beach,
we come from many places.

Like river stones, smooth from life’s surges or chipped in the world’s torrents,
so we come worn and wounded.

Like precious stones, chosen, crafted and valued,
so we come, cared about and loved by God.

Like the stones of a building,
so God brings us together.

Come, as living stones, into God’s presence!

We come to worship God.

OPENING PRAYER

Creator, you have shaped a place for us made of love and held in grace.
It is filled with the whispers of the ancients who followed you and sculpted our faith.
Breathe into this place again, that we may know your way, your truth, and your life.
Amen.

SING

“Be Still My Soul”

#819

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Incline your ear to us, O God, for we have so much to say.
There is so much that causes us to stumble and fall.
So much alters our path and causes us to question your goodness.
So much hurt and pain.
So much to lament.

We are listening for you, O God,
longing to hear your still small voice in pebbles and stones,
rocks and boulders, and even in the living stones, you imagine each of us to be.

Our ears are open to you, O God.

(silent personal prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Worn and scattered or hard or broken, we are precious.
We have received mercy and are God’s people.

Alleluia!

We are God’s people and proclaim God’s goodness.

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE

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

REFLECTION

Reverend Susan Phillips

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SING

"His Eye is On the Sparrow"

#661

WELCOME AZIZA MCNEESE

GIVING OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!"

#591

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 the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

What kind of God is this who is seen and known in the breaking of bread?

What kind of God might it be who journeys deep within shared suffering into joy?

A God of embodied love.

A God of abiding companionship on life's foggy and winding roads.

Aware that our eyes are often blind to human need,

we call to mind the One who takes bread,

gives thanks and generously shares all for the world;

a body broken, a life poured out with the living hope of food, water,
medicine justice, and peace for all.

Open our eyes.

Open our hands.

Free our hearts to see and respect your presence in all and through all.

We will respond with gratitude, joy, and grace.

We will give our lives to the promise of Love always rising up in our midst.

May it fully be so.

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

"Healer of Our Every Ill"

#795

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, as Easter people, living stones, called and chosen,

forgiven and formed into a new community,

working together to show God's mercy and truth.

We go to live in God's way, walking with Jesus, and the power of the Spirit.

Amen.

POSTLUDE