

The Worship of God
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026 – 9:00 Morning Worship
Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!

PRELUDE

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

John Eggert

WELCOME

GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Here we are, God, with our love and our longing.

Here we are, God, standing firm and still searching.

Come, God, to talk, dance, listen, sing, and pray.

Turn toward us.

Take hold of us and comfort us.

Here we are, God, **ready for wonder.**

Ready to encounter you.

Ready to share the rhythm of your love.

OPENING PRAYER

God of glory, you call us by name and shape us into a living message.

Affirm your presence in our lives and community

so we can become strong and faithful witnesses to your way in this world.

SING

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

#12

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory and wonder, we seek to know you more fully.

We want to know your ways, but your rhythm is unfamiliar.

Our movements are awkward,

and we feel like we will never quite fit into your grace.

We seek to imitate your love and justice, but we make so many mistakes.

Forgive us, O God.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Know that the Divine is present in every breath we take,

every kindness we share, every glory we witness,

and every beauty we embrace.

Be assured of God’s forgiveness just as we can be assured

of the sun rising each morning.

Thanks be to God!

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

Exodus 33:12-23

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:15-22

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

REFLECTION

The Reverend Susan Phillips

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SING

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

#475

GIVING OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

#609

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All living things imitate God.

As flowers bloom, as trees bear fruit, as dancers leap high in air,
they imitate your creativity, O God.

As we struggle for justice, as we resolve conflict through peace,
as we extend our hand to our neighbor,
we imitate your love, O God.

As we stand firm in our faith, as we teach and nurture our children,
as we pray for our world,
we imitate your love, O God.

So we give thanks to you, O God,
for your goodness which is in our hearts and minds,
in our strength and soul,
in our life and love.

Praise be to you, O God.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD

SING

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

#716

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 boldly into the world.
Go seek out new ways to be God's holy ones.
Go into the world with God's good news.
You are the message.
Be the message.
Do the message.
Live the message.
As you go, the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ,
and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit goes with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Forth in Thy Name, O Lord"

Noel Rawsthorne