

**The Worship of God**  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 27, 2026 – 9:00 Morning Worship  
**Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!**

PRELUDE

“This is My Father's World”

Rudolf Zuiderveld

WELCOME

**GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Give ear, O people.

Remember the stories your ancestors told.

Give thanks for the glorious deeds of God.

**We give thanks and remember.**

Incline your ears, O people.

Listen to the stories we tell each other.

**We are listening.**

Open your mouth, O people.

Search this wide world for reasons to praise.

Give voice to the hope we need in a world full of conflict and discord.

**We will share these wonders from generation to generation.**

OPENING PRAYER

God of desert days and wilderness nights,  
we rest in the comfortable space of your presence  
and trust words and actions that tell the story  
of who we are and from where we have come.

**We thank you for the abundance of your gifts,  
and for the blessing of the unexpected.**

Surprise us here again, O God.

**Amen.**

SING

“O for a World”

#372

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have found ourselves in conflict.

Our whole world is divided.

We have not escaped every quarrel.

The conflict is still with us. The tension is in our bodies.

**Though the discord we feel may not yet have words, it lives in us.  
Let us hold the space for one another... and be held in the space by others.**

We hold each other through the family quarrels and grudges we keep...

*(silence)*

We hold each other in the forgiveness we never received...

*(silence)*

We hold each other in the daily divisions  
that confront us in headlines and newsfeeds...

*(silence)*

We hold each other within the grumblings that feel unheard and ignored...

*(silence)*

We hold each other in the frustration that no resolution has yet come...

*(silence)*

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The rivers are made for flowing free – and so are our lives.

May God's forgiveness and transformation flow through and from us,  
bringing life to us and all, now and always.

**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

Exodus 17:1-7

##### SECOND SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:23-32

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

#### REFLECTION

The Reverend Susan Phillips

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

#### SING

"How Majestic Is Your Name?"

#613

#### FREE LIBRARY DEDICATION IN MEMORY OF CHUCK WATSON

#### GIVING OUR GIFTS

#### DOXOLOGY

"Alleluia!"

#587

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God, use these gifts to create space for every grumbling and complaint  
to be met with compassion and grace.

**Transform our whole world with love and hope, we pray.**

**O God, we offer our open hands to share in this healing and change work.**

**Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT

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

**SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD**

SING

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

#263

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

Empowered and blessed by God the creator, Jesus the redeemer,  
and the friendship of the Holy Spirit,  
we must go and tell new generations of God's glorious deeds.

**In our words, thoughts and actions,  
may we proclaim the glorious deeds of our God.**

POSTLUDE

"Toccata in F"

Dietrich Buxtehude