

September 15, 2024
First Presbyterian Church
17th Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Praeludium in G Minor, BWV 558* J.S. Bach
Jackson Alexander, organist

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

***Call to Worship** Elder John Joyce

Look at the heavens!

They are shouting the glory of God.

The days and the nights declare the magnificence of God's creative works.

Their voice goes through all the earth and their words reach the ends of the world.

Let our words of praise be acceptable to you.

Our Lord, our rock, our redeemer!

***Hymn 327** *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Invitation to Confession (the congregation is seated)

Let us trust God's mercy and enter the liberating waters of forgiveness and grace. Together, let us boldly confess our sins and acknowledge our need for forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

You call out to us, Holy God, from city streets, town squares and cattle gates, but we refuse to listen. Preoccupied with our projections of you, we fail to see how these thoughts disrupt our communion with each other.

You offer an outstretched hand to join you in transforming our lives, but we deny such a dance with Divinity is possible, choosing complacency to your counsel. Forgive us, Logos of Love, when we ignore your unremitting call to live in the way of love. By your mercy, may we heed your call to examine our foolishness so we may live as fools for Christ's sake. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Beloved friends, receive the good news: the Risen Christ enters all corners of our lives and declares us forgiven.

Having been forgiven, we take up Wisdom's way of knowing, embracing it as we journey toward wholeness and peace. Thanks be to God.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us now greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

***Holy Interruption** *We greet our neighbors in Christ's love*

***Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen, Amen.**

Choral Anthem *O Lord on High* Mozart

*O Lord on high we pray Thee guide us,
And keep our souls in Thine own care;
When dark our way, with light provide us,
Teach us Thy righteousness to share,
Teach us Thy righteousness to share.
Lead Thou us on thro' dangers low'ring,
Be Thou our shield in fears o'er-powering;
Oh, let Thy mercy e'er be our guard,
Over our life keep watch and ward,
Over our life keep watch and ward.*

Children's Message

We Receive God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 50:4-9a

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading Mark 8:27-38

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Message "The Hard Way Every Time" Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith *(from The Confession of 1967)*

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful [people]. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

***Hymn 54** *Make a Joyful Noise*

DIX

Announcements

Pastoral Prayers & Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *The Angelus* Young

***Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

God who witnesses the cries and shouts of creation and receives our tithes and offerings. May our streets be filled with jubilation, our cities be embraced by peace, and our lives be blessed with abundance. Amen

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 816** *If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee*
WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** 545 *Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace*
LAND OF REST

***Postlude** *Agincourt Hymn* Dunstable

Please wait until the end of the benediction response by the choir before exiting.

*Those who are able, please stand as directed at the items marked with an asterisk

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today in loving memory and honor of the remarkable women of the church with September birthdays, both past and present, by Paul Bennett, Matthew Bennett and family, and Kristen Miller and family.

The Church This Week (9/15/2024)

Today	10:00 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Mon.	8:30 a.m.	MMO
Tues.	6:00 p.m.	CBS
Wed.	8:30 a.m.	MMO
	9:00 a.m.	CBS
	3:15 p.m.	Fun Program
	5:30 p.m.	Prayer Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Thurs.	6:00 p.m.	Session
Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

Prayer List as of September 15, 2024

Gerry & Bobby Rogers
 Ina Coggeshall
 Gray & Bea Sloop
 Bennie and Benny Lou Moore
 Bobbie Jones
 For those suffering from chronic mental and emotional illnesses
 Ruth Jackson
 B.J. Moore
 Marion Murphy

Special thanks to Jackson Alexander, guest organist, for his musical offerings throughout the worship service this morning.

The sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. For individuals with hearing aids, please activate your T-coil to utilize this feature. Spare headsets are also available.

NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Date	Name	Name
Sept. 15	Cathy Chapman	Laura Katherine Folger
Sept. 22	Alison Chapman	Edward Tinsley
Sept. 29	Maggie Lloyd	Rebecca Denham

If you would like to place flowers or a plant in the sanctuary for worship service, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. You can also call or email Cathy Chapman and she can sign you up for a date.

The Session has called a congregational meeting to convene during the service of worship on Sunday, September 22, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. for the purpose of electing two (2) members of the church at large to serve on the Officer Nominating Committee. The Session will recommend two (2) names and nominees from the congregation will be entertained providing those members have been notified and are willing to serve.

Monitors Needed:

Thornwell, First Presbyterian Church, and Pathfinders United, with support from the Malloy Foundation, work together to provide reading help for three Pathfinder children. Thornwell provides the online tutoring and we supply monitors for the children, while they are being tutored. There are several people who do this, but we are in need of additional help. A monitor's role is to make sure the children are online with their tutor and are focused on their reading. The three children who are being tutored this year require very little supervision. However, our presence makes the process easier for students and tutors. If you could find the time to volunteer once or twice a month, it would be helpful. Tutoring takes place from 4:45 - 5:45 pm. Monday through Thursday. If you are able to help, contact Avery Dickson (843) 910-0818 or presbyeducator@gmail.com.



Our Vision

*Rooted by God's Grace,
 Growing in the Spirit,
 Reaching Out with Christ's Love*

Session of First Presbyterian Church

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Marietta Melton Burch	Kelli Beck	Mary Anderson
Cathy Chapman	Avery Dickson	Andrew McLeod
Dan Tillman, III	Mary Jane Evans	Kristen Miller
Charlene Tillman	Jean Page Watson	Richard Pierce

The Church Staff

Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor	Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE
Mrs. Carolyn S. West, Secretary	
Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton	Mrs. Kim Brabham, Director MMO
Mrs. Armetha Kendall, Housekeeper	Mrs. Sally Powell, MMO
Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery	Mrs. Gini Eddins, MMO

Mission Partners

Mr. Mark Hare/ Mrs. Jenny Bent, Costa Rica
 Mrs. Ellen Smith, (mission co-worker) Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Poland

Sunday, September 15, 2024

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