

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Presbyterian Church

Tallahassee, Florida

September 20, 2026, 11:00 AM



GATHERING

People are prepared for everything except for the fact that beyond the darkness of their blindness there is great light. They are prepared to go on breaking their backs plowing the same old field until the cows come home without seeing, until they stub their toes on it, that there is a treasure buried in that field rich enough to buy the State of Texas. They are prepared for a God who strikes hard bargains but not for a God who gives as much for an hour's wage as for a day's. They are prepared for a mustard-seed kingdom of God no bigger than the eye of a newt but not for the great banyan it becomes with birds in its branches singing Mozart. They are prepared for the potluck supper at First Presbyterian but not for the marriage supper of the lamb.

Frederick Buechner

Ring of the Zimbelstern

Voluntary

Diapason Movement

John Keeble

Choral Introit

Jubilate Deo

M. Praetorius (1571-1621)

Jubilate Deo, Alleluia!

Call to Worship

Come and worship, you who woke early and you who slept late; you who have walked with God for a lifetime, and you who are just now hearing God's call.

**Whether we are first or last or somewhere in between,
there is room for all of us in God's kingdom.**

Come, step away from the rush and the race of trying to earn your worth.

God's love is not a competition, and God's mercy is overflowing.

There is more than enough grace to go around.

Let us praise God together for God's boundless generosity!

Opening Prayer

*Hymn 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Generous God, you call us into your vineyard, yet we treat your grace like a wage earned rather than a gift given. We confess that we harbor resentment when your kindness extends to those we deem unworthy. We compare our service to the service of others, clutching our pride and questioning your equity. Forgive us for our jealousy, our grumbling spirits, and our failure to rejoice in the abundance of your mercy. Cleanse our hearts, O Lord, and free us from the scorecard of this world, that we may rest in your unearned grace.

*Silent Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

This is the good news: God graces everyone with the same gifts: mercy, restoration, new life. God has kept the covenant.

We have been forgiven; we have been made new people.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Asterisks indicate to please rise in body or spirit. Congregational responses are in **bold print.*

*Response Hymn 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

*The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Mark Phillips

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Mary Kutter

First Reading

Jonah 3:10–4:11

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 42

Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure (Psalm 145)

WINCHESTER NEW

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21–30

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 20:1–16

Sermon

The Most Surprising Payday in History

Rev. Mark Phillips

So the first shall be last and the first shall be last. —Matthew 20:16

*Hymn 436

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

O QUANTA QUALIA

*Affirmation of Faith

From a Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayers of the People

The 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.**

THANKSGIVING

Call For Offering

Presentation of Gifts, Tithes and Offerings

Anthem

Come, Labor On

ORA LABORA

*Come, labor on.
Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain
while all around us waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the Master say,
"Go work today."*

*Come, labor on.
Cast off all gloomy doubt and faithless fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here.
Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill
God's righteous will.*

*Come, labor on.
Claim the high calling angels cannot share;
to young and old the gospel gladness bear.
Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly.
The night draws nigh.*

*Come, labor on.
No time for rest, till glows the western sky,
till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,
and a glad sound comes with the setting sun,
"Well done, well done!"*

*Presentation Hymn 609

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LAAST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

*Hymn 441

Hear the Good News of Salvation

NETTLETON

*Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Jim Strathdee

*The Lord bless and keep you,
The Lord make his face to shine on you,
And be gracious.*

*The Lord bless and keep you,
The Lord lift his countenance on you,
And give you peace.
Shalom Amen*

Voluntary

Fugue in E Major, LubWV 7

Vincent Lübeck

IN WORSHIP TODAY

"Kingdom" or "Kindom" in the Lord's Prayer? Kingdoms were the dominant community structure when our Scriptures were written. Some find it meaningful to think about other Biblical metaphors to convey the ethos of care and genuine kin-ships about which Jesus taught and preached. Please pray as you choose.

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations — We offer prayers for healing for Juana Maria Diaz Perez (mother of Ruben Diaz), Bob Rackleff, Rich Peyton, Martha Kutter, Joyce Crawford, Bev Breedlove, Tara Reynolds, Sandra Sherrard, Martha Snowden, and Wayne Friedemann. **We give thanks** for Judy Arthur's recovery. **We offer prayers for strength and mercy** for Patricia McCoy Delancey and Jeannetta Hoekman. **We pray for the staff and volunteers** of Second Harvest of the Big Bend as well as those of all our mission partners. **We pray for victims of gun violence** in our community and our country. **We pray for the Presbyterian Reformed Church** in Cuba, Pastor Izett Samá Hernández, and Pastor Alison Infante. **We pray for peace** in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Iran and around the world. **We also pray for those in military service**, including Ross Yeilding, David DelRossi, and Owen Elzie.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children are welcome in this service as full members of God's family. Parents and children are invited to use whatever is useful in the basket by the door to the Narthex. Childcare for children under the age of kindergarten is in the Education Building, Room 205. Please note that during worship the Education Building is locked. Please enter through the breezeway door.

Restrooms are located in this building through the door at the end of each ground floor aisle of the sanctuary.

An induction loop system is available in the sanctuary. To use the system, switch your compatible hearing aid to the T-telephone mode or request a wireless headset from an usher.

Large Print Versions of the *Glory to God* hymnal and worship bulletin are available from ushers.

Visitors: We are glad you are here this morning! If you have questions about our congregation or membership, please let us know by using the friendship registers or speaking to one of the greeters so we can connect you with the right people. We welcome new members after worship on the second Sunday of each month.

Sign up today for the church picnic at Maclay Gardens on September 27 after worship.

A "getting to know us gathering" will take place on September 28 at 6:00 PM. Visiting worshipers looking for an opportunity to learn more about the ministry and mission of our church congregation are welcome to join in the John Calvin room at 6:00 PM.

A Blessing of the Animals service will take place in the courtyard from 1:30 PM–2:30 PM on October 4. Bring your favorite animal to this special service!

CHECK-IN



Let us know you came
to Worship today!



QR CODES



GIVE ONLINE



Online Offerings &
Donations

MEMBERS OF SESSION 2026–28

CLASS OF 2026

Daniel Bruno
Eleanor Cleveland
Janet Fixel
John Mayo
Greg Riccardi, Clerk

CLASS OF 2027

Kay Crowell
Jon Dodrill
Caitlin James
Mary Kutter
Deb Whisnant

CLASS OF 2028

Carolyn Herrington
Sue Hightower
Bob McVety
Donnie Watts
Shirley Zahn

SERVING THIS MORNING

MINISTER
SCRIPTURE READER
CHOIR
CHOIR DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
VIDEO TEAM LEAD
SUNDAY HOST

Rev. Mark Phillips
Mary Kutter
The Adult Choir
Bryan Stenson
Victoria Coey
Carl Morse
Becky Brown

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307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

Glory Be to the Father

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

The first system of the hymn is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the'.

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

The second system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are 'Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -'.

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

The third system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are 'gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,'.

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

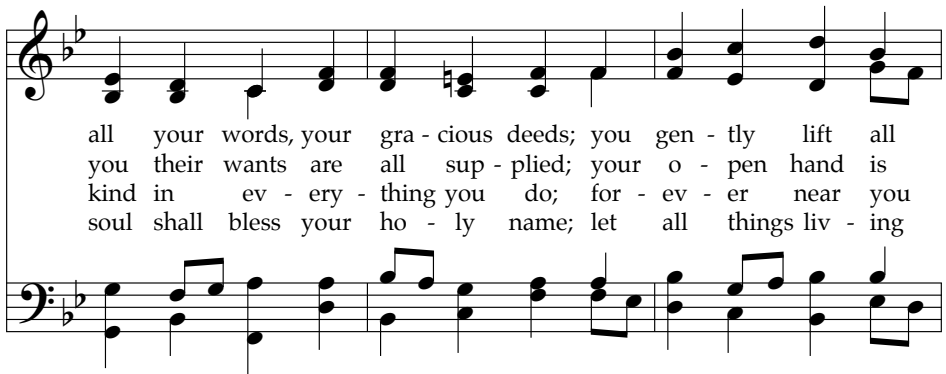
The fourth system concludes the hymn. The lyrics are 'world with - out end. A - men, a - men.' The piece ends with a double bar line.

Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure 42

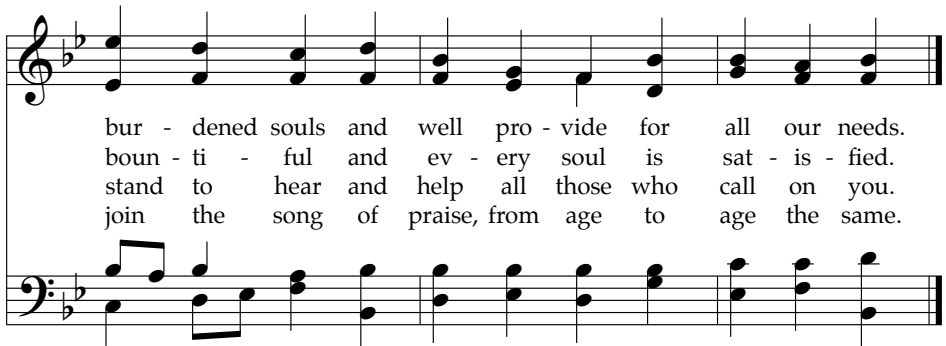
(Psalm 145)



1 Your faith - ful - ness, O Lord, is sure in
 2 The eyes of all are fixed on you; by
 3 Lord, you are just in all your ways, and
 4 My mouth shall speak your praise, O Lord; my



all your words, your gra - cious deeds; you gen - tly lift all
 you their wants are all sup - plied; your o - pen hand is
 kind in ev - ery - thing you do; for - ev - er near you
 soul shall bless your ho - ly name; let all things liv - ing



bur - dened souls and well pro - vide for all our needs.
 boun - ti - ful and ev - ery soul is sat - is - fied.
 stand to hear and help all those who call on you.
 join the song of praise, from age to age the same.

This paraphrase of verses from the latter part of Psalm 145 celebrates God's providential care for all creation, especially for those in any need or trouble. This anonymous German tune was apparently introduced to English hymnody by John Wesley in a 1742 music collection.

God of Compassion, in Mercy 436

Befriend Us

1 God of com - pas - sion, in mer - cy be - friend us,
 2 Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,
 3 How shall we stray, with your hand to di - rect us,

giv - er of grace for our needs all - a - vail - ing.
 stilled our rude hearts with your word of con - sol - ing.
 you who the stars in their cours - es are guid - ing?

Wis - dom and strength for each day ev - er send us,
 Wrap now your peace, like a man - tle, a - round us,
 What shall we fear, with your power to pro - tect us,

pa - tience un - tir - ing and cour - age un - fail - ing.
 guard - ing our thoughts and our pas - sions con - trol - ling.
 we who walk forth in your great - ness con - fid - ing?

By ending with questions rather than simple affirmations, this text conveys a strong sense of faith in God's presence and guidance without ignoring how much of the future remains unknown. The confidence of the text is well matched by its sturdy 17th-century French tune.

609

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

D A D

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures

Bm A D G D Bm E A D

high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise

D

God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it

G A D Em A Bm

one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

Em D G A Em G A D

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

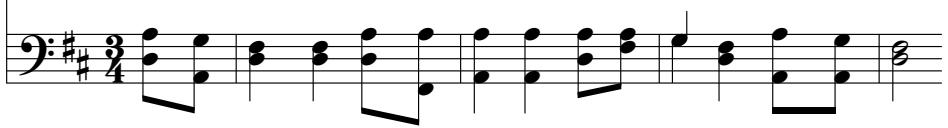
Hear the Good News of Salvation 441

Wotanin waste nahon po



1 Hear the good news of sal - va - tion: Je - sus died to show God's love.
2 All the sins I have com - mit - ted, to my Sav - ior now I bring.

1 Wo - tan - in wa - ste na - hon po, Je - sus he wa - i - hdu - sna:
2 Wo - a - hta - ni kin e - ca - mon, hdu - ha Je - sus si - ha en,



Such great kind - ness! Such great mer - cy! Come to us from heaven a - bove.
I bow down with tears of an - guish; Christ for - gives and so I sing:

to - wa - o - si - da kin tan - ka, he de - han i - yo - ma - hi.
kun i - wa - hpa - mda wa - ce - ya, Je - sus on - ši - ma - da ce.



Je - sus Christ, how much I love you! Je - sus Christ, you save from sin!

Je - sus Christ wa - ste - wa - da - ka, Je - sus Christ ni - ma - yan: han, wa -



How I love you! Look up - on me. Love me still and cleanse with - in.

ste - wa - da - ke a - ma - ton - we is e - ya wa - ste - ma - da.



This text, originally appearing in four stanzas, was written by the first Native American Dakota to be ordained to the Presbyterian ministry and was published in the Dakota hymnal he edited. Both the Dakota and English versions have been associated with this shape note tune.