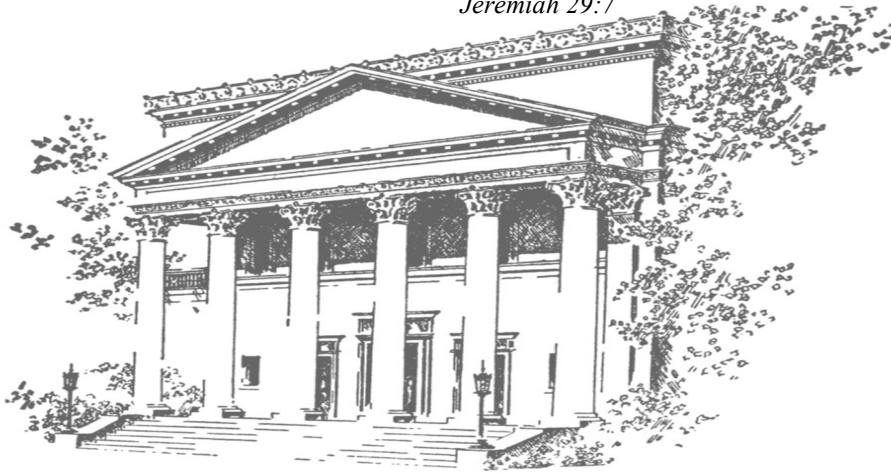


Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...
And pray to the Lord on its behalf

Jeremiah 29:7



First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston, WV 25301-2487
304-343-8961
www.firstpresby.com

Pastors:
The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers
Pastor Marietta Macy

Ministers:
All members of the congregation

The Worship of Our Lord

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

10:30 AM

Welcome to First Presby! We are grateful you chose to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign in via the Friendship Pads located at the end of the pews. We use this information for contact tracing and to keep in touch about church events. We hope you will take a moment to read the electronic newsletter "First Presby Press" and the weekly Green Sheet. Please share news and notes with your friends and neighbors. Thank you!

REFLECTION FOR WORSHIP

The following scriptures and reflection are provided for silent Meditation during the Prelude

"When someone challenges dominating myths, the powerful strike back. This happened to the prophets. This happened to Jesus. It will happen to you, should you start poking at the myths that hold our society together. Poke anyway. God loves us too much for us to be enslaved by false myths." -Maki Ashe Van Steenwyk

Semicontinuous

Exodus 14:19-31 Exodus 15:1-11, 20-21

Complementary

Matthew 18:21-35

* indicates congregation standing, as able

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO . . .

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE Go Down, Moses arr. Mark Hayes

INTROIT When Israel Was in Egypt's Land GO DOWN MOSES

WELCOME Pastor Macy

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol Susman

One: Stretch out your hands for the sea is Gods' partner.

All: Sing to the God Who Saves!

One: Dance with the mountains as slavery ends.

All: Praise to the Living God!

One: Cry out with joy for the path will become clear.

All: Rejoice, we worship the God Who Saves!

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Macy

One: Scripture offers us stories of heroes who have been immoveable in their efforts to inspire people to stand against evil in the world. Hatred and violence are too often a real problem...and we must wonder: Are we actively or inactively, silently or loudly helping to preserve the problem?

All: Pharaoh still decrees death to the foreigner and the power of fear and hate rage around us. In the face of evil, forgive us our complacency.

The burning bush flickers beside us and the presence of God invites us. In the presence of the holy, forgive us our lack of notice.

The Red Sea waters stand at attention. The threshold of grace is breath-taking. In the company of grace, forgive us our reluctance to follow. Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Macy

One: You are God's beloved child. You were formed by the Creator and filled with God's compassion and love. We all fall short and go astray, get lost and hesitate, but there is nothing you can do that will stop God from loving you. There is nowhere you can go where God won't find you. God's love, grace, and peace, are with you, now and always.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #581

Glory Be to the Father

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.*

*SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor Macy

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 14:10-14, 19-31; 15:19-21 (OT p.60)

Pastor Macy

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

We Are the Lord's

LONDONDERRY AIRE

Ian Jessee, viola

arr. Roland E. Martin

We are the Lord's. His all-sufficient merit, sealed on the cross to us this grace accords.
We are the Lord's and all things shall inherit; whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
We are the Lord's. Then let us gladly tender our souls to him in deeds, not empty words.
Let heart and tongue and life combine to render no doubtful witness that we are the Lord's.

We are the Lord's. No darkness brooding o'er us can make us tremble while this star affords
A steady light along the path before us: faith's full assurance that we are the Lord's.
We are the Lord's. No evil can befall us in the dread hour of life's fast-loosening cords;
No pangs of death shall even then appall us. Death shall be vanquished, for we are the Lord's.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 20:1-16 (NT p. 21)

Carol Susman

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Macy

(Children in grades K-5 are dismissed to Children's Church in Room E-117 or they may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.)

SERMON "No Turning Back" Pastor Macy

*HYMN #476 Crashing Waters at Creation CRASHING WATERS

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

JOYS & CONCERNS Pastor Macy

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Pastor Macy

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.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD Pastor Macy

Offertory A Prayer of St. Columba Tim Knight
*Offering Response #607 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDREDTH
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*HYMN #80 You Shall Go Out With Joy THE TREES OF THE FIELD

*BENEDICTION Pastor Macy

*POSTLUDE Toccata in F Major Dietrich Buxtehude

Our worship continues in our service to others.

A warm welcome is extended to all who worship today.
May the gift of worship we offer today honor God and serve as a blessing to you.
Worship is broadcast at 11AM on WCHS-580AM
Worship is also available on our YouTube channel.

All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Marietta Macy
Carol Susman

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music and Organist
Lindsay Marchio, soprano
Ian Jessee, viola
The Sanctuary Choir

ALSO SERVING TODAY

Chiming the Trinity: David Cottrell
Greeters: Amy Cottrell, Kathy Bruner
Art Doumaux, Nancy Winefordner
Audio & Video: Byron Goodew & David Cottrell
Custodial Services: David Feibelmann

WORSHIP NOTES

Please remember that we worship every Sunday Sabbath Day, and that is available via YouTube and the radio broadcast. Thank you for connecting for worship with First Presby.

Pastor Myers is in Morgantown this Sunday preaching at the installation of his son, Will Myers, as the Presbyterian Campus Minister at WVU.

Staff of First Presbyterian Church

William Myers, Pastor/Head of Staff
Marietta Macy, Associate Pastor of Christian Education
Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
Jenny Pitchford, Financial Services Manager
Diana Vorhees, Office Administrator

Anne Moses, Director of the Preschool
Erin Stone, Preschool Office Administrator
Bernard Wooten, Preschool Custodian
Steven Barrett, Facilities Manager
Keith Avery, Custodial Services