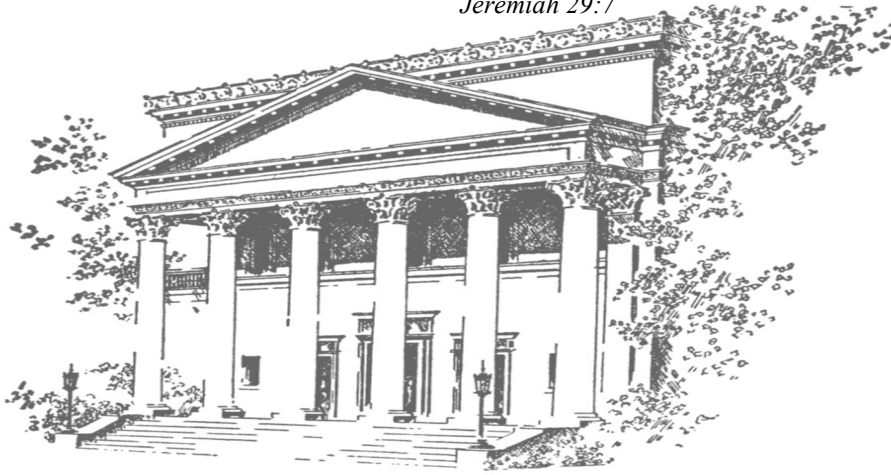


Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...
And pray to the Lord on its behalf

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

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 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

Semicontinuous

Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Complementary

Jonah 3:10-4:11 Psalm 145:1-8 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16

"The church is the church only when it exists for others."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer,
Letters and Papers from Prison

* indicates congregation standing, as able

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO . . .

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE	Cantabile (from <i>École d'orgue</i>)	Jacques Lemmens
INTROIT	Praise the Lord, the Day is Won!	Michael Morgan
WELCOME		Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lindsay Marchio

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

All: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

One: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

All: Yet their voice goes out to the end of the world.

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Macy

One: We try to live our lives in a manner worthy of Christ. We try to stand firm in God's Spirit, but our self-interest gets the better of us.

All: In humility and faith, let us confess.

God of generosity,

We find ourselves bitter

When faced with your abundant grace.

We believe ourselves more deserving than others.

We nurse our anger and resentment at those you forgive,

Instead of rejoicing in the abundant love you show.

Forgive us when we wish your grace was scarce.

Forgive the double standards we hold.

Help us to understand that we are all in need of your grace,

And help us rejoice as we all gratefully receive your mercy.

(Silence is kept for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Macy

One: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ and Christ died for us, Christ was raised for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone; a new life has begun.

All: Thanks be to God!

*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 16:2-15 (OT p. 62) & Philippians 1:21-30 (NT p. 196)

Lindsay Marchio

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

O Give Thanks

Joseph Corfe, arr. James Kirkby

O give thanks unto the Lord.

Give thanks, the Lord is good;

For his steadfast love endures forevermore.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

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

Pastor Myers

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Myers

(Children in grades 1-5 are dismissed to Children's Church in Room E-117 or they may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.)

SERMON

"God will Complete the Work God Began in Us"

Pastor Myers

*HYMN INSERT

Renew Your Church

ALL IS WELL

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

JOYS & CONCERNS

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.

SUNG RESPONSE TO PRAYER #306 Blest Be the Tie That Binds (vss. 2 & 3)

DENNIS

<i>Before our Maker's throne</i>	<i>We share our mutual woes;</i>
<i>We pour our ardent prayers.</i>	<i>Our mutual burdens bear.</i>
<i>Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,</i>	<i>And often for each other flows</i>
<i>Our comforts and our cares.</i>	<i>The sympathizing tear.</i>

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Pastor Macy

Offertory	Andante espressivo
*Offering Response #607	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
	<i>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;</i>
	<i>Praise Christ, all people here below;</i>
	<i>Praise Holy Spirit evermore;</i>
	<i>Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.</i>

Eugène Gigout
OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*HYMN INSERT

God, Bless Your Church with Strength!

ICH HALTE TREULICH STILL

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Myers

*POSTLUDE

Sortie: Animato

Jacques Lemmens

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

The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers
Pastor Marietta Macy
Lindsay Marchio

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music and Organist
The Sanctuary Choir

ALSO SERVING TODAY

Chiming the Trinity: David Cottrell
Greeters: Bob and Jane McEldowney
June Mills

Audio & Video: Byron Goodew & David Cottrell
Custodial Services: David Feibelman

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.

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