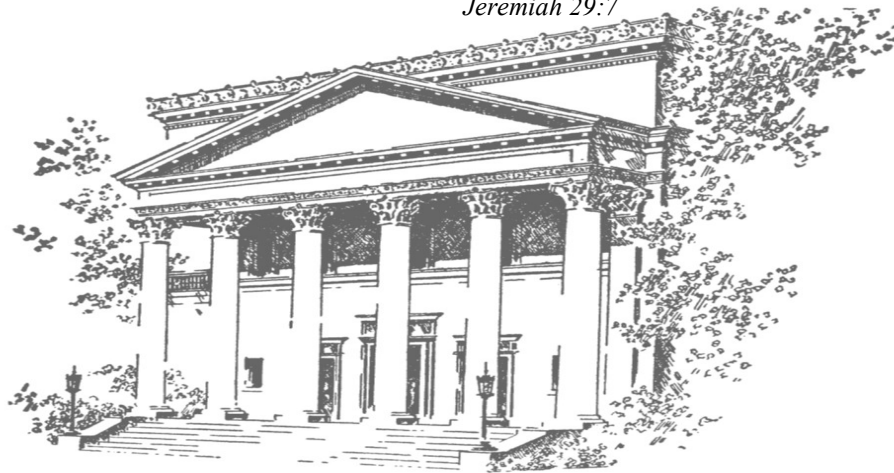


Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...
And pray to the Lord on its behalf

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
The Rev. Marietta Macy

Ministers:
All members of the congregation

The Worship of Our Lord

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 26, 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
Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123

Complementary
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 Psalm 90:1-8 (9-11), 12 I Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-20

*"If you have come here to help me you are wasting your time,
but if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."*
— Lilla Watson, Aboriginal Activist

* indicates congregation standing, as able

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO . . .

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE Prelude on "The Head That Once Was Crowned" arr. Donald Busarow

INTROIT The Head That Once Was Crowned J. Clark, T. Kelly

WELCOME Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tom Marchio

One: For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep.

All: I will rescue them from all the places where they have been scattered.

One: I will feed them with good pasture; there they shall lie down and rest.

All: I myself will be their shepherd, says the Lord God.

One: I will seek the lost, bring back the strayed, bind up the injured, and strengthen the weak.

All: But the proud and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Myers

One: A voice is crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have wandered from your way of truth and life. You call us to share all that we have and work together for the common good, but we hoard up treasures for ourselves and deny others their daily bread.

You call us to set the captives free and seek justice for the oppressed, but we live in fear of our neighbors and hide ourselves from our own kin. You call us to walk in newness of life and to be witnesses to the resurrection, but we dwell in the valley of dry bones and keep silent about your saving love.

Forgive us, God of grace. Set us free from sin, death and fear so that we may serve you with gladness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Silence is kept for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Myers

One: Hear the good news: God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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 Myers

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (OT p. 803)

Tom Marchio

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Let All the World in Every Corner Sing

arr. Jayson Keeton

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 25:31-46 (NT p. 29)

Pastor Macy

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Macy

(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

"Bound Together"

Pastor Macy

*HYMN #100

My Soul Cries Out

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

- *AFFIRMATION OF FAITH— A Brief Statement of Faith (*excerpts*) Tom Marchio
- One: We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
All: Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives.
- One: We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
All: In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image to live as one community.
- One: We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
All: The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.
- One: With believers in every time and place,
All: we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

JOYS & CONCERNS Pastor Myers

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

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 Myers

Offertory Poco andantino (*from L'Organiste*) César Franck
*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 Pastor Myers

*HYMN #772 Live Into Hope TRURO

*BENEDICTION Pastor Macy

*POSTLUDE All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name arr. Mark Hayes

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
The Rev. Marietta Macy
Tom Marchio

THE MUSIC TODAY

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

ALSO SERVING TODAY

Chiming the Trinity: David Cottrell
Greeters: Kim, Patrick, Maddie & Eli Smith

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.

The Staff of First Presbyterian Church

William Myers, Senior 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