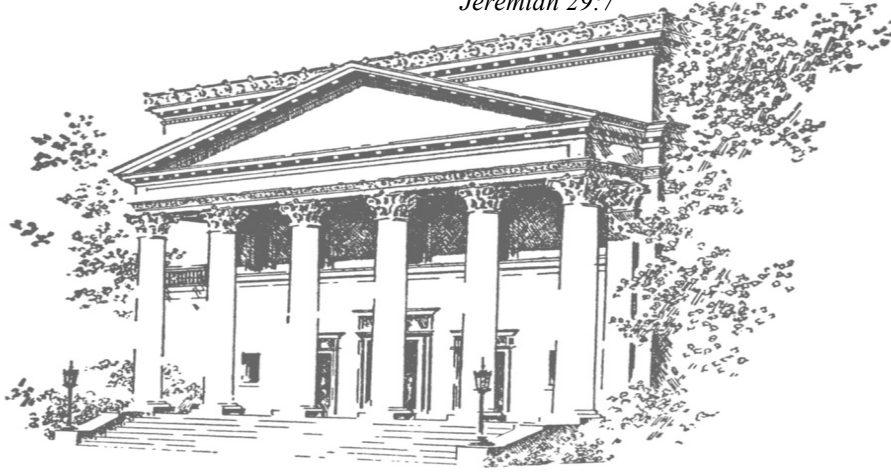


Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...
And pray to the Lord on its behalf

Jeremiah 29:7



First Presbyterian Church

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

Pastor:
The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers

Ministers:
All members of the congregation

The Worship of Our Lord

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024

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 lectionary readings are provided for silent Meditation during the Prelude.

Semicontinuous

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

Complementary

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Psalm 15 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Great and good God, give us pure hearts that we may see you,
humble hearts that we may hear you, hearts of love that we may serve you,
hearts of faith that we may live in you, reverent hearts that we may worship you,
here and in the world out there, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Dag Hammarskjold (1905-1961)

* indicates congregation standing, as able

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO . . .

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Slane"

Henry V. Gerike

WELCOME

Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol Susman

One: God teaches us the way of righteousness, the way of love, the way of peace.

All: We glorify God, gathering to hear God's word. We glorify God, enacting God's word in the world.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Myers

One: God invites us to mutual love. To find that mutuality, we must release our need for honor, our desire for privilege.

All: In humility and faith, let us seek forgiveness, trusting in the promises of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

You love us with open arms, O God.

Forgive us when we do not put your love into practice:

When we do not challenge the injustice around us;

When we are not generous with the gifts we have to share;

When we are slow to compassion and quick to judgment;

When we contribute to the brokenness of the world instead of helping to make it whole.

Forgive us, O God, of the ways we fall short.

Free us to try again, and let your love lead the way.

(Silence is kept for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Myers

One: God rejoices when we repent and return, offering us finest wheat and honey from the rock to sustain us in new life. Rejoice! For you have been reconciled to God and to each other.

All: With joy, we shall enjoy the blessing of serving God.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #240 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks (vss. 1 & 4)

ALLELUIA NO. 1

*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 Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 (OT p. 160) & Psalm 15 (OT p. 495)

Carol Susman

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

I'll Fly Away

arr. Joel Raney

Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away.

To my home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away.

Oh I'll fly away, Oh glory! I'll fly away.

When I die, hallelujah by and by, in the sweet by and by, I'll fly away.

'Cause I've got a home in gloryland that outshines the sun... way beyond the blue.

O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies,

O they tell me of a home far away;

O they tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise,

O they tell me of an unclouded day.

O the land of cloudless day...

When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there!

And there are just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away.

To a land where joys shall never end, I'll fly away.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (NT p. 42)

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-117/119 or they may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.)

SERMON "Godly People Reflect the Image of God" Pastor Myers

*HYMN #450 Be Thou My Vision SLANE

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

JOYS & CONCERNS Pastor Myers

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

SUNG RESPONSE TO PRAYER #828 More Love to Thee, O Christ MORE LOVE TO THEE
*More love to thee, O Christ, More love to thee!
Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee.
This is my earnest plea: more love, O Christ, to thee;
More love to thee, more love to thee!*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offertory Microlude No. 19 Daniel E. Gawthrop
(Please bring your offering forward during the offertory.)

*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 and Dedication

*HYMN #295 Go to the World! SINE NOMINE

*BENEDICTION Pastor Myers

*POSTLUDE Sortie (from *École d'orgue*) 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
Carol Susman

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music and Organist
Lindsay Marchio, soprano

ALSO SERVING TODAY

Chiming the Trinity: David Cottrell
Greeters: Marty Martin
Tom and Sara Marchio

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
Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
Jenny Pitchford, Financial Services Manager
Diana Vorhees, Office Administrator
Steven Barrett, Facilities Manager

Anne Moses, Director of the Preschool
Erin Stone, Preschool Office Administrator
Bernard Wooten, Preschool Custodian
Carl Casto, Preschool Custodian