



We seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ and his call to the realm of God: the practice of justice, mercy and faith. Our mission is represented by the Celtic cross, a shepherd's crook, the extension of the right arm of fellowship into the world and the church's hospitality toward the world.

September 27, 2020
17th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE *We Praise You, O God* Zach Unke

GREETING
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

FOCUS ON MINISTRY

CALL TO WORSHIP
Make a joyful noise to God, all you people!
Serve God with gladness;
come into God's presence with a song.
Let us worship God!

GATHERING HYMN 612 *We Praise You, O God*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Siblings in Christ, in order to speak the truth in love,
we are called to speak the hard truth of our sins.
Let us confess together.

Merciful God,
you call us to lay aside immaturity and walk in the ways of wisdom.
But too often we revert to our silly and selfish ways;
focusing on ourselves instead of others,
fighting over issues that belong in the past,
and fretting over the future with no sense of trust or imagination.
Holy God, save us from ourselves
and free us to embrace the promise you offer us.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE
Beloved children of God, God has heard our plea for forgiveness
and offers us mercy in abundant supply.
Our sins have been forgiven!
Alleluia! Amen

GLORIA: HYMN 442 *Just as I Am, without One Plea*
Stanza 4

THE PEACE
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
You may comment a message of peace
in the comment section below the live stream if you wish.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
*Today we baptize Blake Christine Burtness,
child of Jordan and Chase..*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Loving God, fountain of every blessing,
open us to your life-giving word,
and fill us with your Holy Spirit
so that living water may flow through our hearts—
a spring of hope for a thirsty world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

THE FIRST LESSON 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

RESPONSE
Holy wisdom, holy Word.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE ANTHEM *O Clap Your Hands* John Rutter

THE GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 22:15-22

RESPONSE
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "Our Master's Voice (Through Us)" Sam Massey

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
Let us confess the faith of our Baptism.
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;**

(Affirmation continued)

**he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. *Amen***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

SELF OFFERING

We are invited in silent prayer,
to offer our lives and our world to God.

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Beloved One, these are difficult days.
In the midst of all that overwhelms,
keep us from doing harm where we intend to do good.
You have shown us how to prioritize what is true,
what is just, and what is compassionate.
Bless our offerings and our intentions,
that we might faithfully apply your teachings
in every aspect of our lives. *Amen*

SENDING HYMN 80 *You Shall Go Out with Joy*
Sung twice through

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *We Praise You, O God: Finale at Five Parts* Flor Peeters

Sermon Notes:

1. What brought you to First Presbyterian Church originally? Why do you stay? What makes First Presbyterian attractive to others?
2. What is the witness of our congregation to the world? How does our congregation show Jesus Christ to the world? The apostle Paul speaks of the Thessalonians having a faith that “sounds forth” in the region around them. Does your faith sound forth? How would you describe the sound of your faith? What is worth sharing?
3. Between the noise of those who have no faith and the noise of no whose faith supports an unsavory agenda, there is a silence. How can you and I fill it without just making more noise?

Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, October 11th
12:00pm on Zoom**

Your (virtual) attendance is requested for a brief but important congregational meeting after worship on October 11th. Contact the office if you have any questions.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84390393790?
pwd=SFRKbmw5ZTNKaDMvczFLNIRMTXpiZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84390393790?pwd=SFRKbmw5ZTNKaDMvczFLNIRMTXpiZz09)

Meeting ID: 843 9039 3790

Passcode: 373635

Dial by phone

[+1 312 626 6799](tel:+13126266799) US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 843 9039 3790

Passcode: 373635

Find your local number: [https://us02web.zoom.us/u/
kb4hhWe83R](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kb4hhWe83R)