

September 24, 2023
First Presbyterian Church
Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Prelude in Classic Style*

Young

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dan Sansbury

We Worship Together

***Call to Worship**

Elder John Joyce

O sing to the LORD a new song, for the LORD has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him the victory.

The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

The LORD has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to his people.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyful song and sing God's praise! (adapted from Psalm 98)

***Processional Hymn 1:** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* NICAEA

Invitation to Confession (the congregation is seated)

Friends, the Scriptures tell us that, "*without faith it is impossible to please God*" [Hebrews 11.6], yet we do sometime make our life decisions without regard to faith in God. Sometimes we act out of fear, pride, shame or anxiety. Let us confess together our need for God to work his will in our lives more and more. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and Almighty God, we confess to you that the temptations of this world, and the anxieties for our future, sometime cause us to say or do things which we later regret. Our words and actions do not always conform to your perfect will. Even when we intend to do what is pleasing in your sight, we do not always do it. Forgive us, O Lord. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us anew. Make us stronger and more confident followers of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Listen again to the good news! "*While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*" [Romans 5.8]. That is, before we moved toward God, God had already moved toward us, and initiated a relationship with us based upon God's gracious love for us all.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

***Holy Interruption** *We greet our neighbors in Christ's love*

Congregational Meeting Report of the Pastor Nominating Committee

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem *Blest are They*

Haas

Dan Tillman, Guitar

***Praise of God**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed**

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; 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.

***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

Message to the Children

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.

***Hymn** *A Charge to Keep I Have* (see insert)

BOYLSTON

We Receive God's Word

Scripture Hebrews 11.32-40; Judges 6.11-27

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Message "SURPRISING HEROES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, III:
Gideon, the Least Likely Leader" Dr. Sansbury

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn** *Victory in Jesus* (see insert)

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** *Go with us, Lord*
Chancel Choir

TALLIS' CANON

***Postlude** *Allegro Maestoso*

Handel

*Those who are able, please stand as directed at the items marked with an asterisk

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today in loving memory of Jeane Page by her daughters, Lisa Clarkson and Jean Page Watson.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Jean Page Watson and her family upon the death of her mother, Jeane Griggs Page.

The Church This Week (9/24/2023)

Today	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Mon.	8:30 a.m.	MMO
Tues.	6:00 p.m.	Session Meeting
Wed.	8:30 a.m.	MMO
	3:15 p.m.	Fun Program
	6:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

Prayer List as of September 24, 2023

Gerry & Bobby Rogers
Ina Coggeshall
Atha Lou Gibson
Gray & Bea Sloop
Bennie and Benny Lou Moore
Beth O'Neal
Bobbie Jones
Keller Smith
Gene Brymer

WELCOME to worship! We are glad that you have joined us!

Our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) will report today at our congregational meeting on the calling of our next installed pastor. All active members present in worship today may vote. Members of the PNC are Cathy Chapman (Chair), Kristen Miller, Katelyn Evans, Christie McLeod, John Long and Calvin Phillips.

At the congregational meeting last Sunday, the congregation chose Richard Pierce and Cam Beck as at-large members of the Officer Nominating Committee. They join two current elders, Dan Tillman and Cathy Chapman, and one Presbyterian Women representative, Becky Childers, to be 5-member ONC. They will work together over the next few weeks to come up with a slate of elder nominees that they will then bring to the congregation for a vote.

NEXT SUNDAY, October 1, is "Worldwide Communion Sunday," a time when Christians throughout the world celebrate the sacrament within a 24-hour period of time. It is a sign of our unity in faith and witness to Jesus Christ. Here, all who trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the sacrament with us. Read I Samuel 16-17 in preparation for worship next Sunday.

Church secretary Mrs. Carolyn West is on vacation this week, September 24-28.

Mission Outreach Ministry will have a church grounds clean up day Saturday, October 28th from 8:00 until 12:00. Bring rakes, chainsaws, shovels, hedge trimmers and gloves. Our main focus will be on cleaning up the backyard of the Fellowship Building and manse yard.

Work has begun on the column repairs to the Session House. Unfortunately there was a mix-up on the measurements of the new columns. We are in the process of getting this issue fixed. This problem may add a few weeks or months before they can be replaced. Please know that we are working to get the job finished as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding.
Robby Bennett, Chair, Administrative Committee

Our church is growing and we are so excited. The number of children attending nursery during worship has increased and we need your help! We ask that **any adult** who is willing to keep the nursery during worship, please sign up at the link listed below. We ask that **parents** with a young child attending nursery, please help us by signing up for a Sunday every other month. Thank you for your willingness to volunteer in our nursery.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0545afaf22ab9-nursery#/>



The sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. For individuals with hearing aids, please activate your T-coil to utilize this feature. Spare headsets are also available.

Lindsey Bennett needs our help collecting gallon and half gallon milk jugs to do a project with Pathfinders for the Jazz Festival. They plan to make musical instruments for the Bebop parade. There will be a plastic laundry basket near the nursery area for you to put the jugs in. Please save your empty milk jugs for this project. Thank you for your help in this project.

Session of First Presbyterian Church

Class of 2023

Gina Goddard
John Joyce
Christie McLeod
Calvin Phillips
Charlene Tillman

Class of 2024

Marietta Melton Burch
Cathy Chapman
David Nagel
Dan Tillman, III
Jennifer Tillman

Class of 2025

Kelli Beck
Avery Dickson
Mary Jane Evans
Jean Page Watson

The Church Staff

Dr. Dan Sansbury, Interim Pastor
Mrs. Carolyn S. West, Secretary
Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton
Mrs. Arneha Kendall, Housekeeper
Mrs. Mary Gullede, Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery

Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE

Mrs. Kim Brabham, Director MMO
Mrs. Paige Coates, MMO
Mrs. Sally Powell, MMO

Mission Partners

Mr. Mark Hare/ Mrs. Jenny Bent, Costa Rica
Mrs. Ellen Smith, (mission co-worker) Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Poland



Our Vision

*Rooted by God's Grace,
Growing in the Spirit,
Reaching Out with Christ's Love*

Sunday, September 24, 2023

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