

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 24, 2023 – 10:30 AM

## Order of Worship

### Church Staff

Steve Frazier – Covenant Pastor  
Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music  
Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary

### **Week of Sept 24 - Prayers of the People**

- Rusty Vann
- John Hackworth
- Bev Smith, Mallory's Mother-In-Law
- Josh Bennett
- Skip Parker
- Nancy Ward
- Jackie Lapointe
- David Stuart
- Deb Hardie
- Frances Hasty
- Paul and Alice Butler
- Lane Pittman
- Robert Norfleet
- Emily Bond
- Monica Manley
- Kathryn Duck

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Lyra Furman  
8 Sonia Powell  
10 Bentley Breeden  
10 Collin Taylor  
18 Rebecca Tanner  
20 Karen Diggs  
23 Patrice Winkler  
24 C. C. Smith  
25 Oralie Wilhite  
28 Dede Strauss  
28 Brian Patgorski  
28 Charlie Sykes Jr.  
29 Roberta (Bobbie) Stegall  
30 Toni Rutsch

*Welcome and Announcements-Thank you for joining us for this morning's worship service. We are glad to have you here! If this is your first time visiting with us, please fill out a visitor's form, found in the back of most pews. We would be pleased to add you to our email list. Welcome!*

Prelude "Adagio from Fantasia in C" César Franck

Choral Call to Worship

**\*\*Call to Worship**

We will sing to God and bless God's name forever and ever.

**Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!**

We will declare God's mighty acts and celebrate God's abundant goodness.

**Let us worship, singing of God's righteousness.**

\*Hymn 620 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession-followed by a time for silent confession and prayer

We try to live our lives in a manner worthy of Christ. We try to stand firm in God's spirit, but our human self-interest gets the better of us. 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 know that we are all in need of your grace, and help us rejoice as we all gratefully receive your mercy.**

Assurance of God's Grace

The grace of God is boundless, poured freely for all of us.

**\*\*We will receive this gift of forgiveness, and trust God to transform our lives!**

Response "Sing A New Song"

**\*\*Sing a new song unto the Lord. Let your song be sung from mountains high.**

**Sing a new song unto the Lord, singing Halleluiah! (repeat)**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem "Awake My Heart" Jane M. Marshall

Awake, my heart, and render to God thy sure defender, thy Maker, thy preserver, a song of love and fervor. Confirm my deeds and guide me: my day, with Thee beside me, beginning, middle, ending will all be upward tending. My heart shall be Thy dwelling, with joy and gladness swelling; Thy word my nurture given to bring me on toward heaven. Awake, my heart, and render to God thy sure defender, a song of love and fervor.

*\*Please rise in body or Spirit. | \*\*Words in bold print are spoken aloud or sung in unison.*

\*Doxology

**\*\*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.**

Prayers of the People

**\*\*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.**

Time with Children

\*Hymn 626

“As the Deer”

First Lesson

Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

Second Lesson

Matthew 20: 1-18

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

“‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death.

Sermon

“You Cheated Me!”

Dr. Steven Frazier

\*Hymn 697

“Take My Life”

Benediction

\*Benediction Response

“Jesus Be with Us”

Gambrell

**Jesus, be with us. Help us each day to follow the Gospel and live as we pray. Send us your Spirit and show us your way Jesus be with us today. Where there is hunger and thirst in the land, scatter the systems of greed. Jesus be with us, make use of our hands. Lift up your people in need.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Peace of Christ be with you.

**\*\*And also with you.**

Greet one another with the peace of Christ.

**Please join us in the Courtyard Lobby for snacks after worship!**



**The Stated Session meeting will be in the pastor's office following this morning's service of worship.**