



First Presbyterian Church

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 20, 2026, 11:00 AM



* Indicates that those who are able may stand

Bold type is spoken by the people.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY: Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

Larry Shackley

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tony Lawson, Liturgist

ONE: The wilderness is still.

ALL: The hungry are left empty.

ONE: The cracked earth crumbles.

ALL: The thirsty cry out.

ONE: The Promise Keeper pulls them close.

ALL: God, hear us now.

ONE: Water flows.

ALL: The Holy One listens.

ONE: A feast from heaven.

ALL: The Holy One provides.

*OPENING HYMN: O Day of Rest and Gladness

#393

CALL TO & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE 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, saying...

ALL: 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.

SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

*RESPONSE HYMN: Lord Have Mercy Upon Us

#575

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

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

*GLORIA PATRI

#581

ALL: 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!

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Katie Long

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Jonah 3:10—4:11

P.811

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Philippians 1:21—30

P.185

ANTHEM:

A Vineyard Grows

K. Lee Scott

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda

Amid the world's bleak wilderness
A vineyard grows with promise green,
The planting of the Lord himself.
His love selected this terrain,
His vine with love he planted here
To bear the choicest fruit for him.
We are his branches, chosen, dear,
And though we feel the dresser's knife,
We are the objects of his care.
From him we draw the juice of life,
For him supply his winery
With fruit from which true joys derive.
Vine, keep what I was meant to be:
Your branch, with your rich life in me.

THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Matthew 20:1-16

P.20

ONE: Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Cade Arnold

*SERMON HYMN:

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

#224

COMMUNAL 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.

*GREETINGS

After an exchange of Peace between the Pastor and the Congregation, we encourage you to greet one another. The Greetings will conclude with the first verse of *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*.

ONE: ...The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Let us pass the peace...

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; #306
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ONE: ... Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

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.

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERTORY: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross *Malcolm Archer*

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY **#606**

ALL: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN: Breathe on Me, Breath of God **#286**

*BENEDICTION

ONE: ... Alleluia!

ALL: Amen!

POSTLUDE: Voluntary *G.F. Handel*

REGULAR WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY

- **Higher Grounds Café** – 9:30am-11am, in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Religion & Culture Class** – 9:30am-10:30am, in room 6.
- **Nursery** – 9:30am-12:15pm - Ages 5 and under.
- **Children’s Sunday School** – 9:45am in Room 16
- **Faithful Living Class** 10am-10:45am, in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Adult Morning Bible Study** – 10am-10:45am, in the Library
- **Worship Service** – 11am, in the Sanctuary
- **Children’s Church** - 11:15am, in Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAY

- **Wednesday Night Book Study** – Dinner 5:15pm, study 6pm, *Inspired*, by Rachel Held Evens, Led by Rev. Long.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study** – Dinner 5:15pm, study 6pm, Book of *Revelation*, Led by Rev. McLaughlin.
(Children’s church and nursery provided, 6pm.)
- **Choir Rehearsal** – 7:30pm, in the Sanctuary.

ELDERS:

2026: Cade Arnold, Josh Doré
2027: Sidonie Sansom, Dee Tompkins
2028: Ben Marsee, Donna Simpson

CLERK: Chris McCormick

DEACONS:

2026: Michelle Doré, Ron Ledbetter, Stacey Trent
2027: Kelly Appleton, Ann Hayes, Tony Lawson,
Colleen Mestayer, Gabrielle Pate, Shelley
Wiley
2028: Missy Moore, Liz Tompkins, Pat Wilhelm

BIRTHDAYS:

Dore, Evangeline	09/04
Tompkins, Elizabeth	09/10
Mestayer, Colleen	09/12
McLaughlin, Michael	09/13
Reames, Tokuhiko	09/17

Abbot, Al	09/20
Reames, Kanako	09/20
Vanatta, Bill	09/22
Williams, Amber	09/27
Fillers, Virginia	09/29

STAFF:

The Rev. Michael D. McLaughlin.....	Pastor & Head of Staff
The Rev. Katie Long.....	Dir. TTU PSA, Community Life Minister
Paul Thurmond.....	Director of Music
Michelle Dore’	Interim SoulSong Coordinator
Amy Ainsley.....	Office Administrator

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