

Our Vision
God Nourishes All to Grow

Our Mission
Inspiring All to Love and Serve with Christ



First Presbyterian Church

Reverend Katie Estes, Pastor

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“Grow Through Giving” Stewardship Focus

GATHERING MUSIC

"Trumpet Voluntary" – Gordon Young
"Offertoire" – César Franck
"Prelude on *Ellacombe*" – John Carter

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"All Things Bright and Beautiful" – John Rutter

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Abundance everywhere!

God's creation overflowing with wonder.

A delicate spider's web sparkling with morning dew.

Cool, fresh air on a fall afternoon.

A crisp apple and the smell of pumpkin pie.

A warm sweater and a tender embrace.

God's love and grace, lavish, abundant and ever-present.

A reminder of growth, of challenge and change.

A deep joy in our gathering, our worship, our giving.

God's blessings, generous and abundant for us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (unison)

Eternal and loving God, we come remembering that all of our days and years are gifts from you. As we center ourselves upon your goodness this day, we are prompted to glorify you with our hearts, souls, minds and strength. Receive then, all expressions of our love and gratitude. May we truly realize this day that we are growing into your image for your glory. Amen.

HYMN #32

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

CALL TO CONFESSION

God judges the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity. God knows all that we have done and all that we avoid doing. God is fully aware of our obedience to the way of love and our rebellion against it. We are encouraged to confess all that God already knows so that healing and freedom can be ours in Christ Jesus. Let us pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Loving God, you who hold us so gently, teach us the art of letting go of anything that keeps us from your embrace. We grab and clutch things that are often only a passing fad. We go after success and recognition as if they might fill our deepest longings. We saddle relationships with unrealistic and unfair expectations. Generous God, lead us to a deeper sense of gratitude today, a growing sense of trust in your ability to provide all that we need. Teach us what treasures will last. Show us the blessings of giving with joy, loving without conditions, and sharing from our abundance.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (responsive)

Jesus gave the most extravagant gift of all—the offering of himself for each of us.

Through this selfless gift, we are set free, and our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE #515 "I Come with Joy" (v.1)**
I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

PASSING THE PEACE (responsive)

As we have been forgiven in Christ, let us also forgive one another, and God will be glorified.
May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you. (*share words of peace*)

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Sarabanda and Gavotta"— Arcangelo Corelli
Mary Nickel, euphonium

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

In gratitude, we join our ancestors in the faith in thanking you for your provision of all that we need. Where we have been less than mindful of your generosity, fill us with a new awareness of it. May we never take lightly your invitation to the abundant life, where we hear your word and it magnifies our life. Amen.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6: 19-21

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ.

PSALM 65: 1-2, 9-13 (responsive)

God of Zion, to you even silence is praise.

Promises made to you are kept—
you listen to prayer—
and all living things come to you.

You visit the earth and make it abundant,
enriching it greatly by God's stream, full of water.

You provide people with grain
because that is what you've decided.

Drenching the earth's furrows, leveling its ridges,
you soften it with rain showers; you bless its growth.

You crown the year with your goodness;
your paths overflow with rich food.

Even the desert pastures drip with it,
and the hills are dressed in pure joy.

The meadowlands are covered with flocks,
the valleys decked out in grain—
they shout for joy; they break out in song!

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1: 9-12, 29-30

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"God Gives Growth"
Pastor Katie Estes

HYMN #680

"Soft Rains of Spring Flow

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one of us must do as we have made up our minds, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Let us present our offerings to God this day.

OFFERTORY

"Rêverie" – Léon Boëllmann

***RESPONSE #327 "From All That Dwell Below the Skies" (v.2)**

**In every land begin the song; to every land the strains belong:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the world with joyful praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Let the fields exult with us, good and gracious God, as we give back what you have given us. Let the hills sing out and accept our investment in your earth, your people, your coming reign. Grant us growth in our trust, in our love, in our giving. We ask it in Christ's name. Amen.

HYMN #20

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

CHARGE & BLESSING (responsive)

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, rejoice!

**God has met us here and blessed us;
we give thanks for God's abundant kindness.**

We have been equipped once more to face life
in all its ambiguities and anguish.

**We have been reminded of our own growth
and the growth of God's will among us.**

In plenty and hunger, abundance and want, we are not alone.

We can do all things through Christ, who strengthens us.

POSTLUDE

"Rigaudon" – André Campra