

17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 15, 2024

11:00am

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE "Be Thou My Vision" *by Dale Wood*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder*

INTROIT "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" *arr. Mark Hayes*

WORDS OF PRAISE *Iona Abbey Worship Book* *Scott Wilson*

The world belongs to God,

the earth and all its people.

How good it is, how wonderful,

to live together in unity.

Love and faith come together,

justice and peace join hands.

If Christ's disciples keep silent,

these stones would shout aloud.

Open our lips, O God,

and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

*OPENING HYMN #93 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

*OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, you are the source of all the wisdom we need.

Yet we have sought the counsel of others, looking to our own understanding, rather than relying on your word.

Forgive us for insisting on our own way. Humble our hearts to embrace your wisdom once again. Guide the words of our mouths, and the meditation of our hearts, so that we may witness to your goodness and mercy throughout our lives.

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE 1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then

we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Friends, the Good News: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and saved throughout eternity!

Alleluia!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please greet those around you with the peace of Christ.)

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #604 "Lamb of God"**

SCRIPTURE READING Galatians 3 selected verses

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM "I Give You My Life" *by Wintley Phipps*

SERMON "Offspring" *Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder*

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #700 "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Confession of Belhar (1986)*

We believe...

- that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;
- that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ;
- that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;
- that this unity can be established only in freedom and not under constraint; that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, convictions, as well as the various languages and cultures, are by virtue of the reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment within the one visible people of God;
- that true faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership of this church.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER *Hymnal P. 35*

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"
by Johann Gottfried Walther

***DOXOLOGY #606 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"**

***PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

***CLOSING HYMN #834 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"**

***BLESSING & SENDING**

Compassion, faith, and joy are ours through Jesus Christ our Savior.

May the Holy Spirit move us to preserve and enhance life for all people, giving witness to the life-giving goodness of God our Creator.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Alleluia! Amen.

***POSTLUDE** "Toccatà on Good News" *by Carl Maultsby*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE WELCOME JOSHUA GOINES, who will be playing piano, organ, and singing for us today.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 Session has called for a congregational meeting to be held following worship on Sunday, September 29, for the purpose of electing officers to serve on Session. **Class of 2025:** Barbara Richardson **Class of 2026:** Cindy Cooke **Class of 2027:** Lisa Caywood and Sharon Wilson

GRAVESIDE SERVICE AND RECEPTION FOR BRAD FURR There will be a graveside service for Brad Furr at Thornrose on Saturday, September 21 at 11:00am, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00pm. All are invited to both the graveside service and the reception.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP & BBQ SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22! Please join us for outdoor worship on the lawn, followed by a BBQ and covered dish lunch on Sunday, September 22. The church will provide hot dogs, lemonade, coffee, plates, cups, and napkins. The congregation is asked to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. Come and bring a friend, and don't forget your lawn chair! All are welcome, especially Mary Baldwin students, faculty, and staff. **Please RSVP to the church office** at stauntonfirst@gmail.com or 540-886-0704, so we know how many hot dogs to prepare. Thanks!

HANDBELLS AND CHOIR ARE BACK! Every Wednesday, handbells will rehearse 5:30-6:30pm, and choir will rehearse 7:00-8:00pm.

Prayer List

Please send out prayers for: Family of Brad Furr; Julie Furr; Danny Anson; Paul Goble; Jim Cooke; Martha; family of Judy Lendermon
Please contact Heidi in the church office or Pastor Jeff to have names added or removed from the prayer list.

Names will be removed after 6 weeks unless otherwise requested.

Elders

Class of 2024

Sam Clem, Discipleship, Congregational Life
Mary Meade, Worship
Barbara Richardson, Congregational Life

Class of 2025

Stephany Morgan, Administration, Missions & Outreach
Bret Ritchie, Administration
Hugh Sproul, Property

Class of 2026

Susie Lendermon, Missions & Outreach
Martha Tillen, Worship

Clerk

Martha Tillen

Treasurers

Scott Wilson
Amanda Avery

Staff

Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder, Interim Pastor
Dr. Renee Huff, Minister of Music
Heidi Marsh, Office Manager

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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First Presbyterian Church, Staunton, VA

Mission & Vision Statement

Adopted on September 10, 2024

We open our hearts and our doors to worshipping Christ in downtown Staunton as a visible witness to the Gospel.

We are called to be a congregation that...

1. Invites all people to faith in Christ.
2. Worships God in a vibrant community through discipleship, music, and fellowship.
3. Uses our resources, time, and talents in the service of the least of these.
4. Nurtures and strengthens those within and outside of our community.
5. Makes the best use of our historic downtown property to benefit others.