

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 10, 2024 at 10 am

*"O LORD, what a variety of things you have made!
In wisdom you have made them all." (Psalms 104:24)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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HYMN #469: "MORNING HAS BROKEN"

Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light, Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**Everything we see reminds us of your power and glory
because you made everything out of nothing.**

You made the sun and the moon,
you made the land and the sea,
you made the birds and the fish and all the animals,
and you made us to love you and take care of your creation.

**We praise you for all your gifts
and for helping us take care of your world.
Thank you for your creativity and your love.**

We come to worship you, to thank you, to revel in your presence.

**O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

Based on Psalm 8.

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HYMN #476: O WORSHIP THE KING (verses 1-2, 4-5)

O worship the King, all glorious above!
 O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;
 Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
 Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
 Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
 His chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,
 And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
 It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
 And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
 In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
 Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
 Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

**Holy and merciful God,
 in perfection you created the earth,
 fixed the course of the sun and seasons,
 and populated the earth with plants, fish, birds, and animals
 to live in an intricate, balanced web of life.
 You created us in your image
 and appointed us as caretakers of the earth and all its resources.**

We confess that we have failed to live up to our responsibilities.

**As we look at our polluted earth,
 where we consume resources at an unsustainable rate,
 where we casually use things we know are harmful to the environment,
 where we give too little attention
 to protecting the beauty and health of your creation,
 we know we have failed to be good stewards.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for these and other sins
 as we bring them silently to you**

After corporate prayer we will have a few moments of silence for personal confession.

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SPEAK, O LORD

Speak, O Lord as we come to You
 To receive the food of Your holy word;
 Take Your truth plant it deep in us
 Shape and fashion us in Your likeness.

That the light of Christ might be seen today
 In our acts of love and our deeds of faith;
 Speak, O Lord and fulfill in us
 All Your purposes for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord full obedience,
 Holy reverence true humility;
 Test our thoughts and our attitudes
 In the radiance of Your purity.

Cause our faith to rise;
 Cause our eyes to see
 Your majestic love and authority;
 Words of power that can never fail,
 Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord and renew our minds;
 Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
 Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
 That will echo down through eternity.
 And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
 And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
 Speak, O Lord till Your church is built,
 And the earth is filled with Your glory.

*"Speak, O Lord," by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.
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READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"Giving Thanks for Creation"*

Job 38:1–40:5

Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind:

² "Who is this that questions my wisdom
 with such ignorant words?"

³ Brace yourself like a man,
 because I have some questions for you,
 and you must answer them.

⁴ "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?
 Tell me, if you know so much.

⁵ Who determined its dimensions
 and stretched out the surveying line?

⁶ What supports its foundations,
 and who laid its cornerstone

⁷ as the morning stars sang together
 and all the angels shouted for joy?

⁸ "Who kept the sea inside its boundaries
 as it burst from the womb,

⁹ and as I clothed it with clouds
 and wrapped it in thick darkness?"

- 10 For I locked it behind barred gates,
limiting its shores.
- 11 I said, "This far and no farther will you come.
Here your proud waves must stop!"
- 12 "Have you ever commanded the morning to appear
and caused the dawn to rise in the east?
- 13 Have you made daylight spread to the ends of the earth,
to bring an end to the night's wickedness?
- 14 As the light approaches,
the earth takes shape like clay pressed beneath a seal;
it is robed in brilliant colors.
- 15 The light disturbs the wicked
and stops the arm that is raised in violence.
- 16 "Have you explored the springs from which the seas come?
Have you explored their depths?
- 17 Do you know where the gates of death are located?
Have you seen the gates of utter gloom?
- 18 Do you realize the extent of the earth?
Tell me about it if you know!
- 19 "Where does light come from,
and where does darkness go?
- 20 Can you take each to its home?
Do you know how to get there?
- 21 But of course you know all this!
For you were born before it was all created,
and you are so very experienced!
- 22 "Have you visited the storehouses of the snow
or seen the storehouses of hail?
- 23 (I have reserved them as weapons for the time of trouble,
for the day of battle and war.)
- 24 Where is the path to the source of light?
Where is the home of the east wind?
- 25 "Who created a channel for the torrents of rain?
Who laid out the path for the lightning?
- 26 Who makes the rain fall on barren land,
in a desert where no one lives?
- 27 Who sends rain to satisfy the parched ground
and make the tender grass spring up?
- 28 "Does the rain have a father?
Who gives birth to the dew?
- 29 Who is the mother of the ice?
Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens?
- 30 For the water turns to ice as hard as rock,
and the surface of the water freezes.

31 “Can you direct the movement of the stars—
binding the cluster of the Pleiades
or loosening the cords of Orion?

32 Can you direct the constellations through the seasons
or guide the Bear with her cubs across the heavens?

33 Do you know the laws of the universe?
Can you use them to regulate the earth?

34 “Can you shout to the clouds
and make it rain?

35 Can you make lightning appear
and cause it to strike as you direct?

36 Who gives intuition to the heart
and instinct to the mind?

37 Who is wise enough to count all the clouds?
Who can tilt the water jars of heaven

38 when the parched ground is dry
and the soil has hardened into clods?

39 “Can you stalk prey for a lioness
and satisfy the young lions’ appetites

40 as they lie in their dens
or crouch in the thicket?

41 Who provides food for the ravens
when their young cry out to God
and wander about in hunger?

39¹ “Do you know when the wild goats give birth?
Have you watched as deer are born in the wild?

² Do you know how many months they carry their young?
Are you aware of the time of their delivery?

³ They crouch down to give birth to their young
and deliver their offspring.

⁴ Their young grow up in the open fields,
then leave home and never return.

⁵ “Who gives the wild donkey its freedom?
Who untied its ropes?

⁶ I have placed it in the wilderness;
its home is the wasteland.

⁷ It hates the noise of the city
and has no driver to shout at it.

⁸ The mountains are its pastureland,
where it searches for every blade of grass.

⁹ “Will the wild ox consent to being tamed?
Will it spend the night in your stall?

¹⁰ Can you hitch a wild ox to a plow?
Will it plow a field for you?

- 11 Given its strength, can you trust it?
Can you leave and trust the ox to do your work?
- 12 Can you rely on it to bring home your grain
and deliver it to your threshing floor?
- 13 “The ostrich flaps her wings grandly,
but they are no match for the feathers of the stork.
- 14 She lays her eggs on top of the earth,
letting them be warmed in the dust.
- 15 She doesn’t worry that a foot might crush them
or a wild animal might destroy them.
- 16 She is harsh toward her young,
as if they were not her own.
She doesn’t care if they die.
- 17 For God has deprived her of wisdom.
He has given her no understanding.
- 18 But whenever she jumps up to run,
she passes the swiftest horse with its rider.
- 19 “Have you given the horse its strength
or clothed its neck with a flowing mane?
20 Did you give it the ability to leap like a locust?
Its majestic snorting is terrifying!
21 It paws the earth and rejoices in its strength
when it charges out to battle.
22 It laughs at fear and is unafraid.
It does not run from the sword.
23 The arrows rattle against it,
and the spear and javelin flash.
24 It paws the ground fiercely
and rushes forward into battle when the ram’s horn blows.
25 It snorts at the sound of the horn.
It senses the battle in the distance.
It quivers at the captain’s commands and the noise of battle.
- 26 “Is it your wisdom that makes the hawk soar
and spread its wings toward the south?
27 Is it at your command that the eagle rises
to the heights to make its nest?
28 It lives on the cliffs,
making its home on a distant, rocky crag.
29 From there it hunts its prey,
keeping watch with piercing eyes.
30 Its young gulp down blood.
Where there’s a carcass, there you’ll find it.”
- 40**¹ Then the LORD said to Job,
- ² “Do you still want to argue with the Almighty?
You are God’s critic, but do you have the answers?”

³ Then Job replied to the LORD,
⁴ "I am nothing—how could I ever find the answers?
 I will cover my mouth with my hand.
⁵ I have said too much already.
 I have nothing more to say."

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

*The metal basket in the offering plate is for gifts to support
 our deacons' provision of care, support, and financial assistance to those in need.*

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DOXOLOGY

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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HYMN #288: *I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD*

I sing the mighty power of God
 That made the mountains rise;
 That spread the flowing seas abroad
 And built the lofty skies.
 I sing the wisdom that ordained
 The sun to rule the day;
 The moon shines full at God's command,
 And all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord
 That filled the earth with food;
 God formed the creatures with a word
 And then pronounced them good.
 Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
 Where'er I turn my eyes;
 If I survey the ground I tread,
 Or gaze upon the skies!

There's not a plant or flower below
 But makes Thy glories known;
 And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
 By order from Thy throne;
 While all that borrows life from Thee
 Is ever in Thy care,
 And everywhere that we can be,
 Thou, God, art present there.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Tuesday, Nov. 12	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Wednesday, Nov. 13	Quilting Group (10:30 – 2:30) Soup and Study: <i>From Manuscripts to Translations</i> Coffee and Study (1:00 pm) Soup and Study (6:00 pm)
Thursday, Nov. 14	Session (7:00 pm)
Sunday, Nov. 17	Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
LOOKING AHEAD	Movie: <i>The Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i> November 24: Three-congregation Thanksgiving worship service and potluck

Have you been thinking about the Black Friday sales, and looking for a reason to upgrade to a bigger TV? If so, we'd like to give you the excuse! The church's current TVs are small, and/or unable to connect to modern technology—and we could use replacements in a few places. So . . . if you have a working flat-screen TV you are replacing, please talk to Chuck about the possibility that we could use it. Thanks!

Church Financial Update (through October 31)

Actual Expenses to Date: \$162,381 ☞ Giving to Date: \$156,770

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our church and its mission!

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First Presbyterian Church of Aberdeen

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Office Hours: 10 am – 2 pm (Monday, Wednesday – Friday)

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