

Worship at First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 10 am

“Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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WONDERFUL, MERCIFUL SAVIOR

Wonderful merciful Savior,
Precious Redeemer and Friend,
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men;
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

*You are the One that we praise;
You are the One we adore;
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for,
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.*

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace,
You offer hope when our hearts
Have hopelessly lost the way;
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way. *[Refrain]*

Almighty, infinite, Father,
Faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us,
Falling before Your throne;
Oh, we're falling before Your throne. *[Refrain]*

*“Wonderful Merciful Savior” by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse,
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.

**You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created and have their being.**

You are worthy of our worship, Lamb of God,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased for God
persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth.

**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!**

To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!

Let's join together to worship our once crucified, now risen Lord.

Based on Revelation 4:8, 11; 5:9-10, 12, 13

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HYMN #151: CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love;
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye
At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace;
Whose power a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
Absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end;
And round His piercèd feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
Throughout eternity.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *AND* ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive)

O God, our Heavenly Father—out of whose mind this great cosmic universe has been created, toward whom the weary and perplexed of all generations turn for consolation and direction—we come before your presence this evening thanking you for the many blessings of life. **We come recognizing our dependence on you.**

We also come, O God, with an awareness: The fact that we have not always given our lives to that which is high and noble. In the midst of all of the high and noble aspects of justice, **we followed injustice.**

We stand amid the forces of truth, **and yet we deliberately lie.**

We stand amid the compelling urgency of the Lord of love, as exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ, **and yet we live our lives so often in the dungeons of hate.**

For all of these sins, O God, forgive.

And in these days of emotional tension—when the problems of the world are gigantic in extent and chaotic in detail—give us penetrating vision, broad understanding, power of endurance, and abiding faith, and save us from the paralysis of crippling fear.

And O God, we ask you to help us to work with renewed vigor for a warless world and for a brotherhood that transcends race or color.

*Based on a prayer by Martin Luther King,
on stage with Billy Graham at Madison Square Gardens evangelistic campaign, July 18, 1957.*

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HYMN #85: *WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on.
And through eternity I'll sing on.

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"First Contact"*

John 1:19–51

This was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders sent priests and Temple assistants from Jerusalem to ask John, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He came right out and said, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹ "Well then, who are you?" they asked. "Are you Elijah?"

“No,” he replied.

“Are you the Prophet we are expecting?”

“No.”

²² “Then who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?”

²³ John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah:

“I am a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Clear the way for the LORD’s coming!’”

²⁴ Then the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ asked him, “If you aren’t the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, what right do you have to baptize?”

²⁶ John told them, “I baptize with water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize. ²⁷ Though his ministry follows mine, I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal.”

²⁸ This encounter took place in Bethany, an area east of the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ He is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.’ ³¹ I did not recognize him as the Messiah, but I have been baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel.”

³² Then John testified, “I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. ³³ I didn’t know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Chosen One of God.”

³⁵ The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. ³⁶ As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, “Look! There is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ When John’s two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus.

³⁸ Jesus looked around and saw them following. “What do you want?” he asked them. They replied, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

³⁹ “Come and see,” he said. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day.

⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. ⁴¹ Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means “Christ”).

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 Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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REDEEMED, HOW I LOVE TO PROCLAIM IT

Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed thru His infinite mercy,
His child and forever I am.

*Redeemed, redeemed,
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed, redeemed,
His child and forever I am.*

Redeemed and so happy in Jesus,
No language my rapture can tell;
I know that the light of His presence
With me doth continually dwell. *[Refrain]*

I think of my blessed Redeemer,
I think of Him all the day long;
I sing for I cannot be silent;
His love is the theme of my song. *[Refrain]*

*"Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It" by Fanny J. Crosby;
Words and music in the Public Domain.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

- TODAY** Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Called Session Meeting (after the service; Parlor)
Youth Group (3:00 Youth Parlor Upstairs)
- Tuesday, Jan 21** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
- Wednesday, Jan 22** Quilting Group (10:30 – 2:30)
- Sunday, Jan 26** Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor)
Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
- LOOKING AHEAD** Annual Meeting: January 26 (after the service)

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