

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 10 am

"God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*

AS THE DEER

As the deer panteth for the water,
So my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship Thee.

*You alone are my strength my shield;
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee.*

You're my friend and You are my brother,
Even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other,
So much more than anything. *[Refrain]*

I want You more than gold or silver,
Only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joygiver,
And the apple of my eye. *[Refrain]*

"As the Deer" by Martin Nystrom.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

O God, you are our God;
Our souls thirst for you;
our whole beings long for you
in this parched and weary land where there is no water.

Lord, we have experienced your power and glory;
Your unfailing love is better than life itself;
how we praise you!

We will praise you as long as we live,
lifting up our hands to you in prayer.

We will praise you with songs of joy.
 We will praise you as we meditate on your goodness;
 We will praise you for your care and instruction.

Come, let us exalt the Lord together.

Based on Psalm 63:1–8.

CHOIR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

Holy and Loving God,
 You have gone to great lengths to redeem us by Your Son Jesus Christ,
 and you invite us into a life of hope, joy, and freedom.
 And yet, we forget, Lord.

We forget that You have sanctified us for greater things.

We confess that we too often abandon You when our comfort is threatened.
 We admit that we get consumed with serving ourselves
 and our own interests.

Forgive us of our sins—our violation of your will and holiness.

Father, cause us to turn our gaze squarely back on You.
 Speak to our fearful hearts.

Open our eyes and ears to a greater awareness of You,
 and to the adventure of joyful living for your glory each and every day.

May we represent you well this week,
 acting as your hands and feet in the world around us.

We pray this humbly in Christ's Name. Amen.

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

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HYMN #356: COME THOU FOUNT

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
 Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
 Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
 Call for songs of loudest praise.
 Teach me some melodious sonnet,
 Sung by flaming tongues above;
 Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
 Mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
 Hither by Thy help I'm come;
 And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
 Safely to arrive at home.
 Jesus sought me when a stranger,
 Wandering from the fold of God;

He, to rescue me from danger,
 Interposed his precious blood.
 O to grace how great a debtor
 Daily I'm constrained to be!
 Let that grace now, like a fetter,
 Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
 Prone to leave the God I love;
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
 Seal it for Thy courts above.

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"Living Water, Genuine Worship, and White Fields"*

John 4:1–42

Jesus knew the Pharisees had heard that he was baptizing and making more disciples than John ² (though Jesus himself didn't baptize them—his disciples did).
³ So he left Judea and returned to Galilee.

⁴ He had to go through Samaria on the way. ⁵ Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. ⁷ Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." ⁸ He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

⁹ The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

¹⁰ Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

¹¹ "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? ¹² And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?"

¹³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. ¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

¹⁵ "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water."

¹⁶ "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her.

¹⁷ "I don't have a husband," the woman replied.

Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband—¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!"

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet. ²⁰ So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?"

²¹ Jesus replied, "Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. ²³ But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. ²⁴ For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

²⁵ The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶ Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!"

²⁷ Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, "What do you want with her?" or "Why are you talking to her?" ²⁸ The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" ³⁰ So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

³¹ Meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus, "Rabbi, eat something."

³² But Jesus replied, "I have a kind of food you know nothing about."

³³ "Did someone bring him food while we were gone?" the disciples asked each other.

³⁴ Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work. ³⁵ You know the saying, 'Four months between planting and harvest.' But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. ³⁶ The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! ³⁷ You know the saying, 'One plants and another harvests.' And it's true. ³⁸ I sent you to harvest where you didn't plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest."

³⁹ Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!" ⁴⁰ When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, ⁴¹ long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. ⁴² Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world."

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.*

Offertory: MEN'S GROUP

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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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I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
Thy head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
Stoop down, and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise,
And all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my Star, my Sun;
And in that Light of life I'll walk,
Till trav'ling days are done.

*"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" by Horatius Bonar and Terry Kirkland.
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BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Tuesday, Feb. 25	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Wednesday, Feb. 26	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Sunday, Mar. 2	Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary) Caring Hearts (after the service, in the parlor)
LOOKING AHEAD	March 5: Ash Wednesday Service (6:00 supper, 6:30 service) March 12 – April 9: Lenten Study— <i>Friendly Faith</i> Coffee and Study (1:00 pm) Soup and Study (6:00 pm) March 30: Church Membership Information Meeting

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