

First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville



August 23, 2026

Worship 10:00 am

www.fpcmartinsville.org



The Worship of God
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Gathering

The Call of the Carillon

Let the carillon bells invite us into the sanctuary, where we prepare our hearts in silence to worship the Living God.

Prelude

Tranquillity

Robert F. Swift

Preparing to Hear the Word

Welcome

Rev. John Erickson

Remembering Our Baptisms

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

Mary Sipla

Come, let us worship the living God.

We come with open hearts, ready to listen and ready to follow.

Jesus asks us, "Who do you say that I am?"

You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Then let us worship the One who calls us beyond what we think we know.

Let us worship the One who is our hope, our salvation, and our life.

Come, let us worship God, revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

We come to worship, to listen, and to follow. Amen.

♦ **Hymn**

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

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Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

We confess that we often want you to be who we expect you to be. We want answers that are simple, faith that is certain, and a Christ who fits comfortably into the lives we have already built.

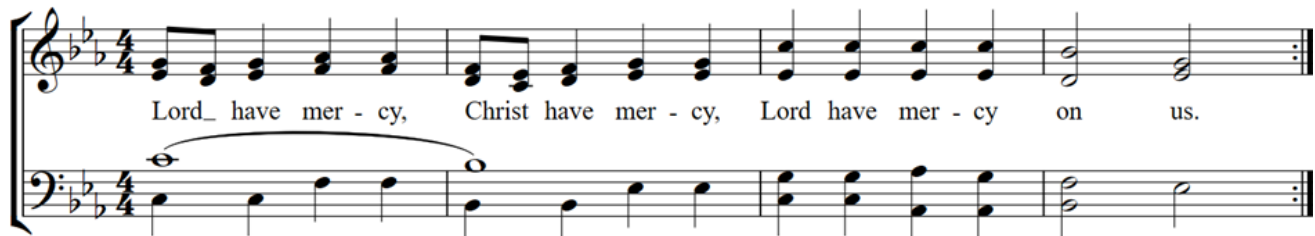
Forgive us when we try to make Jesus in our own image. Forgive us when we claim to know you but refuse to let you surprise us. Forgive us when we hear your call to follow but choose our own way instead.

Give us humble hearts and open minds. Teach us to recognize you again—not only in the places where we expect to find you, but wherever your love is at work. And when our faith is uncertain, remind us that your faithfulness does not depend upon our certainty.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Slent Prayer

Kyrie



Lord_ have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy on us.

WORDS: Kyrie eleison
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1982

DOMINE DEUS

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news:

Our salvation does not rest upon how perfectly we understand God, or how confidently we confess our faith. It rests solely upon the grace of God.

In Jesus Christ, we are met with mercy, forgiven our sins, and invited into new life. God does not turn away from us when our faith falters or our understanding is incomplete. God continues to call us, love us, forgive us, and lead us.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen

- ♦ **Gloria Patri** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; 579*
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Mary Sipla

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 138

Pew Bible: OT p.545

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

Lord, Speak for Me, for I Am Yours

Leo Sowerby

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

Pew Bible: NT p.17

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Anita Wolfe

Sermon

Rev. John Erickson



Responding to the Word

♦ Hymn

I Danced in the Morning

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♦ Affirmation of Faith

As citizens we acknowledge
the Spirit's work in human government
for the welfare of the people,
for justice among the poor,
for mercy toward the prisoner,
against inhuman oppression of humanity.
We must obey God above all rulers,
waiting upon the Spirit,
filled with the patience of Christ.
We pray for the fruits of the Spirit of Christ
who works for peace on earth,
commands us to love our enemies,
and calls for patience among the nations.

We give thanks for God's work among governments,
seeking to resolve disputes by means other than war,
placing human kindness above national pride,
replacing the curse of war with international self-control.
We hear the Spirit's call to love one another
opposing discrimination of race or sex,
inviting us to accept one another,
and to share at every level
in work and play,
in church and state,
in marriage and family,
and so fulfill the love of Christ.

Gathering of Tithes and Offering

Offertory

♦ Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

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Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Sending

♦ Hymn

Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

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Benediction

Benediction Response

Lead Me Lord

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy right-eous-ness, make Thy way plain be - fore my face.

For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord, On - ly that mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

WORDS: Psalms 5:8, 4:8
MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley, 1861

LEAD ME, LORD

Postlude

Prélude from Suite Bergamasque

Claude Debussy

(During the postlude, you are invited to remain seated.)

♦ All who are able, please stand



The Rev. John Erickson, Pastor
Elijah Buerk Music Director / Organist
Anderson Hartman / Media Director