

First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville



July 26, 2026

Worship 10:00 am

www.fpcmartinsville.org



The Worship of God

Nineth 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

Nos. 1 and 2 from 5 Versets

Charles Tournemire

Preparing to Hear the Word

Welcome

Rev. John Erickson

Remembering Our Baptisms

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

Doug Bryant

The kingdom of heaven does not always arrive with thunder.

Sometimes it begins as something almost too small to see.

A seed in the earth.

A little yeast hidden in the dough.

A treasure buried beneath ordinary ground.

And yet, beneath the surface, God is already at work.

There are wonders hidden in the familiar,
possibilities concealed in the small,
and grace waiting to be discovered
where we might never think to look.

Open our eyes, O God, that we may recognize your kingdom among us.

For the kingdom is worth seeking.

It is worth finding.

And when we glimpse its beauty,
it is worth everything.

**With wonder in our hearts and hope in our hands,
we turn toward the mystery of God's kingdom.**

Let us worship God.

♦ Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

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Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

We confess that we have often looked for your kingdom in the places we expected to find it.

We have searched for power, certainty, success, and spectacle,
while overlooking the small signs of your grace growing quietly around us.

We have failed to recognize Christ in the faces of people we know,
and in the faces of people we do not understand.

We have been too quick to dismiss the stranger,
too ready to judge the neighbor,
too distracted to notice the person standing beside us.

Forgive us, O God,

for the times we have looked past the image of your love
because it appeared in a form we did not expect.

Open our eyes to the hidden treasures of your kingdom.

Teach us to recognize your grace in unexpected places,
your love in unexpected people,

and the presence of Christ wherever compassion, mercy, courage, and love are
being lived.

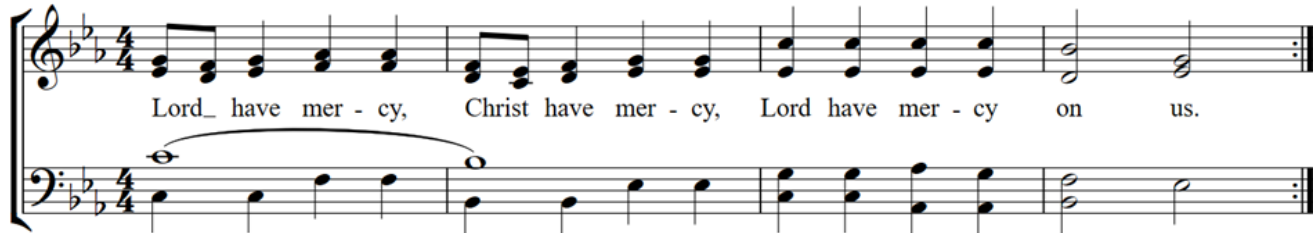
Plant in us the humility to look again,
the patience to listen more deeply,
and the wonder to discover that your kingdom may already be growing
where we had failed to see it.

In the name of Jesus Christ,
who reveals the presence of God among us, we pray.

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:

the kingdom of God is not hidden from us forever. The grace of God is nearer than we know, and the love of Christ is already at work among us.

God does not turn away from us when we fail to see. God continues to seek us, to teach us, and to open our eyes to the presence of grace.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven—not so that we may remain as we are, but so that we may see more clearly, love more deeply, and recognize the image of God in those around us.

Thanks be to God.

♦ **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

Doug Bryant

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 139:13-18
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Pew Bible: OT p.545

Special Music

Symphony No. 5: iv. Adagio

Charles Marie Widor

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Pew Bible: NT p.14

Children's Message

Anita Wolfe

Sermon

Rev. John Erickson



Responding to the Word

♦ Hymn

Seek Ye First

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♦ Affirmation of Faith ~ The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead; On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Gathering of Tithes and Offering

Offertory

♦ Doxology

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*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.*

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Sending

♦ Hymn

The Trees of the Field

(see insert)

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

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name, Op. 135a, No. 10

Max Reger

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

♦ All who are able, please stand



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