

First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville



September 13, 2026

Worship 10:00 am

www.fpcmartinsville.org



The Worship of God

Sixteenth 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

Partite diverse sopra: O God Thou Faithful God (I, II, and III) Johann Sebastian Bach

Preparing to Hear the Word

Welcome

Rev. John Erickson

Remembering Our Baptisms

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

Lynette Liberge

Come, people of God. Come with whatever you carry.

**With gratitude and weariness, with hope and uncertainty,
with forgiveness given and
forgiveness still waiting to be given.**

Come, for the God who made a way through the waters and
is still making a way where we cannot yet see one.

**Come, for the God who leads us into freedom and
calls us away from fear, resentment, and all that keeps us bound.**

Come, and remember:

We gather because grace has found us, because mercy is at work among us.

**We gather because there is a way forward.
So let us worship the God who makes a way,
who gives us new beginnings,
who teaches us how to live in love.**

♦ Hymn

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

We confess that we do not always live as people who have been set free.

We hold on to old hurts.

We keep score.

**We remember what others have done to us and
too often forget what you have done for us.**

**We confess the times we have allowed resentment to take root,
the times we have been slow to forgive,
and the times we have failed to make room for the people
whose lives or choices are different from our own.**

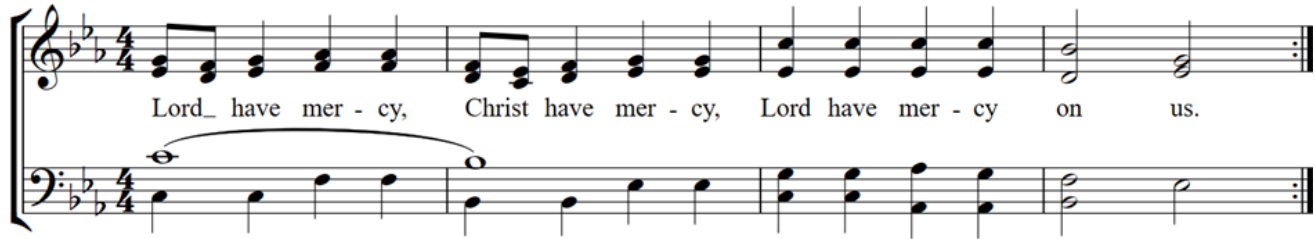
**Forgive us, O God. Loosen what binds us. Open our hands. Soften our
hearts.**

**Lead us once again into the freedom of your grace,
and teach us to extend to others the mercy we have received from you.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Slent Prayer

Kyrie



WORDS: Kyrie eleison
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1982

DOMINE DEUS

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news:

God's grace is always stronger than whatever might that bind us.

We are not trapped by our past. In love, there is a way forward.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, set free, and given the grace to begin again.

So let us hold fast to the Good News:

In Christ, we are forgiven.

In Christ, we are made new.

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

Lynette Liberge

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 112
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Pew Bible: OT p.532

Special Music

Oh all you Creatures of the Lord (Song 41)
(see insert)

Orlando Gibbons

Second Scripture Reading

Romans 14:1-12
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Pew Bible: NT p.152

Children's Message

Lynette Liberge

Sermon

Rev. John Erickson



Responding to the Word

♦ Hymn

When We Are Living

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♦ Affirmation of Faith

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5

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

God of Grace and God of Glory

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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.

LEAD ME, LORD

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

Postlude

Partite diverse sopra: O God Thou Faithful God (IX)

Johann Sebastian Bach

(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