

September 6, 2026 + 10:30 A.M.

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

We Join in Worship

Liturgist: Karen Lounsbury

If you need extra space for a wheelchair or walker, or if you have young children with you, please feel free to make use of our Playground, the extra space across the aisle from the sound booth.

PRELUDE *My Lord, What a Morning* Spiritual, arr. Cindy Berry

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from *Psalms* 105)

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, call on the LORD's name, make known the LORD's deeds among the peoples.

ALL: Let us sing to the LORD, let us sing praises to the LORD; let us tell of all the LORD's wonderful works.

Leader: Glory in the LORD's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Seek the LORD's strength; seek the LORD's presence continually.

ALL: Let us sing to the LORD, let us sing praises to the LORD; let us tell of all the LORD's wonderful works.

Leader: Let us remember the wonderful works the LORD has done, the miracles, and the judgments the LORD has uttered.

ALL: Let us sing to the LORD, let us sing praises to the LORD; let us tell of all the LORD's wonderful works.

Leader: The LORD is our God whose judgments are in all the earth. The LORD is mindful of the covenant forever, of the word that the LORD commanded, for a thousand generations.

ALL: Let us sing to the LORD, let us sing praises to the LORD; let us tell of all the LORD's wonderful works. Let us worship the LORD!

***OPENING HYMN:** "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" (Glory to God 418)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

Leader: In his letter to the Romans, Paul writes, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." And yet, we are often overcome by evil. Let us confess our sins before each other and before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O God, just as Moses unburdened himself of his sandals in order to stand on holy ground, we unburden ourselves with confession. We confess that we do not honor the holy ground upon which we tread. You have consecrated all Creation, and we treat it as though it belongs to us. We jealously claim land and resources that should belong to all. We extract the riches of the soil and leave behind decay. Where you plant life, we sow death. Sometimes in ignorance, sometimes in callousness, we boot-trample through ground made holy by you and your children. Please forgive us and help us to do better. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

KYRIE: No. 572 (unison)

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear the good news! The Son of God is to come with his angels in glory. The Kingdom will be complete, and we will be forgiven.

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

STATEMENT OF FAITH: (*The Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

EMBODIED WORD FOR DISCIPLES OF ALL AGES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON: *Exodus 3:1-9*

EPISTLE LESSON: *Romans 12:9-21*

GOSPEL LESSON: *Matthew 11:25-30*

SERMON: Bare Feet on Holy Ground

MUSICAL MEDITATION: *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* Tristan Casiano on Violin

We Respond in Faith

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(the Great Prayer continues...)

...With your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim the mystery of faith. **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING THE BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

Leader: The bread of heaven. The cup of the new covenant. The gifts of God for the people of God.

ALL: Let us keep the feast!

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please hold the bread and the cup when received that we may show unity in Christ by communing together.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

OFFERING INVITATION:

Leader: We are called to step onto holy ground with respect and intention, and there we are to listen to God's call upon our lives. Let us give our tithes and offerings so that we can do the work necessary to respond to God's call! If you are here in person, please place your offering in the plate as it is passed. If you are worshiping from home, please mail in your checks or use our online giving option on the website. Now let us practice stewardship as we listen to today's offertory.

OFFERTORY *Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone*

George N. Allen, arr. Cindy Berry

***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.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Unison)**

O God, we dedicate these gifts to you and to the holy ground of your Kingdom. Give us strength and courage to dedicate our lives as well. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

We Go Into the World

***CLOSING HYMN:** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" (Glory to God 465)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Rejoice, the Lord Is King*

John Darwall, arr. Cindy Berry

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* So that we can properly greet people who come to the building during Sunday morning worship, Door A will be the only unlocked external door during the worship service.

PEEK AT THE WEEK:

SUNDAY 9/6:	Worship In Person & Online – 10:30 AM Communion
MONDAY 9/7:	LABOR DAY GA – 6:30 PM Al-Anon – 7:00 PM
TUESDAY 9/8:	Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (FH) Mission – 6:00 PM Stewardship/Finance – 6:30 PM AA – 7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY 9/9:	Trustees – 9:00 AM Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (FH) GA – 7:00 PM
THURSDAY 9/10:	Choir – 7:00 PM
SATURDAY 9/12:	Cook for Shelter – 1:00 PM AA – 6:30 PM
SUNDAY 9/13:	First Sunday with Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **AUGUST CALENDAR FUNDRAISER** Hunter Balczo is still collecting funds from our August Calendar Fundraiser. Please find him if you signed up but have not yet had a chance to give money.
- **FELLOWSHIP HOSTING IN THE FALL** We are asking folks to sign up to host fellowship time in the Fall. Our ministries and committees have been doing a fantastic job, and they are getting a well-deserved break! Hosting entails bringing a simple snack to share, setting it out, and cleaning up afterwards. On Sundays with no sign-ups, we will still have coffee and tea to enjoy.
- **CHOIR PRACTICE IS THURSDAYS AT 7PM** We need singers of all sorts and welcome singers of all skill levels! We have a great time, and singing is a great way to give glory to God!
- **OUR FALL KICKOFF AND BRUNCH** will be held on Sunday, Sept. 20 after worship. Our Session will provide delicious dishes for brunch, and you'll get a preview of all the exciting things happening this fall in the life of our congregation. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex beginning on Sept. 6. Questions? Contact Heather Casiano (hcasiano@fpchighland.org).
- **OUR ANNUAL BONFIRE AND HAYRIDE** will be on Sunday, Oct. 4, from 3-5 pm at Oak Ridge Prairie County Park in Griffith. All are invited and friends and family are welcome. The hayride starts promptly at 3 pm, and lasts almost an hour. Then we'll enjoy a bonfire including roasting hotdogs and marshmallows over the campfire, along with some fun activities and songs! Plenty of food, fellowship and fun for all! There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex mid-September, or you can RSVP to Heather Casiano at hcasiano@fpchighland.org by October 1.
- **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!** If you don't already follow us on Facebook and Instagram, please start doing so @firstpchighland on both Facebook and Instagram.

- **INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF FPCH?** You are always welcome here, whether a member or not! If you are interested in joining as a member, though, we would love to have you! Please talk to Pastor Tyler if you would like to learn more.

Opportunities to serve as the HEART, HANDS, and FEET of Jesus Christ:

- **BLESSING BOX** Please continue to place items in the Blessing Box and take items if you are a person in need! Items most commonly donated: Canned goods with pull tabs, socks, toilet paper, non-perishable foods, small snacks, toiletries, baby wipes and diapers. Please check expiration dates!
- **HELP STOCK OUR PANTRY!** Please pick up a beautifully decorated grocery bag in the narthex and fill it to help the church's food pantry.
- **GOT SNEAKERS??** The sneakers that we all collect will help raise money to support our church's general fund AND will help our environment by keeping sneakers out of landfills. Bring the sneakers (athletic shoes only) to the church and put them in one of the blue bins...either by Door D (inside) or in the narthex.

Prayer List

Anthony
 Brady Vanes
 George Griner
 Guy Hendricks
 Holmes
 David Markley
 David Kingen
 Diana and Ray Mendoza
 Janet Orem
 Cindy Waltz and Sister
 Yvonne Suroviak
 Georgette and Garry Sknerski
 Jakob Holden
 Denise Matthys
 Jan Oprea
 Florance Cody
 Kathy & Chuck Pumnea
 The Windstrups
 Rick Parker
 Gary Everhart
 Darlene O'Brien
 Doug & Sue Matthews
 Janet Terpstra
 Glen Nahler
 Tom
 David Hamblin
 Jana Tolley
 Larry & Bonnie Perryman

Delta Rose
 Winnie Owen
 Breeanne
 Mom Bechtler
 Marian Clayton
 Ella P
 Rita Stronczek
 Keren, Zuriel, and Gedeon
 Edna Cruz
 Charlie
 Jerry & Rena Martinez
 Tyler Gall
 Luana Sulkowski
 Sonny Buono
 Tammy
 Mike Kelly
 Sue Heth
 Oscar Ochoa
 Jean and Clara
 Dave Shelborne
 Kali Rosalia
 Wendy
 Jessica S
 Shirley McKnight
 Kay Johnson
 Loved ones of Bill Holmes

Exodus 3:1-5

³ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them.

Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 11:25-30

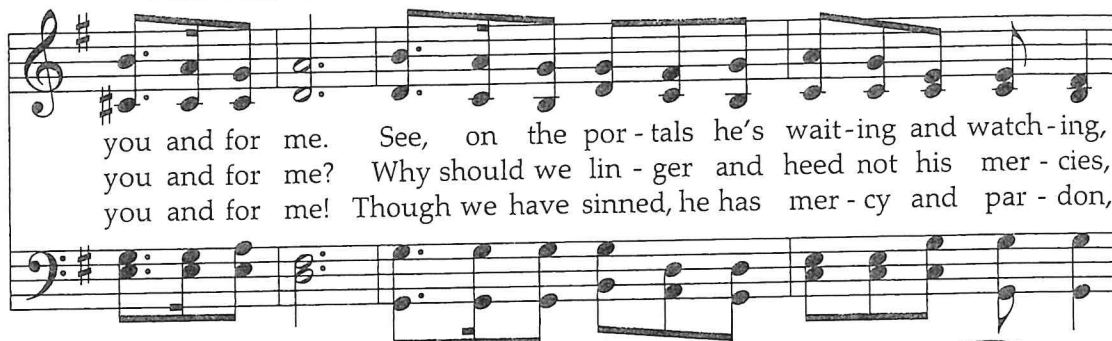
²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,



Refrain
 watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!"



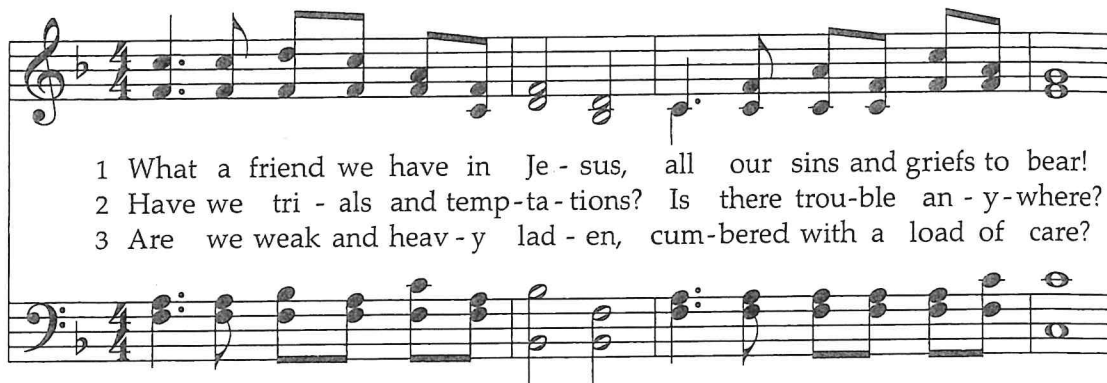
You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



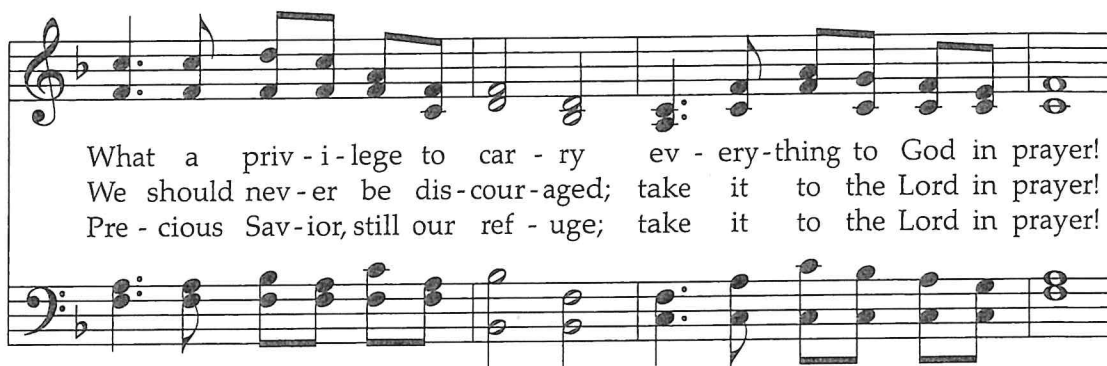
Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

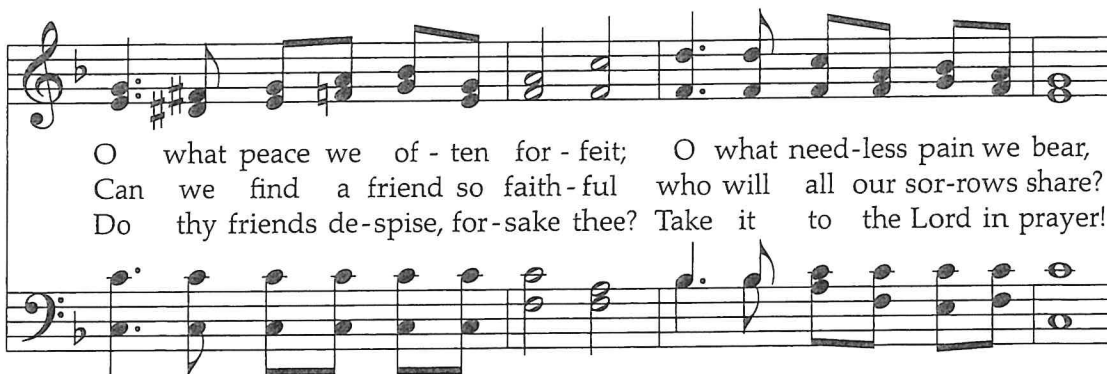
죄짐맡은 우리구주



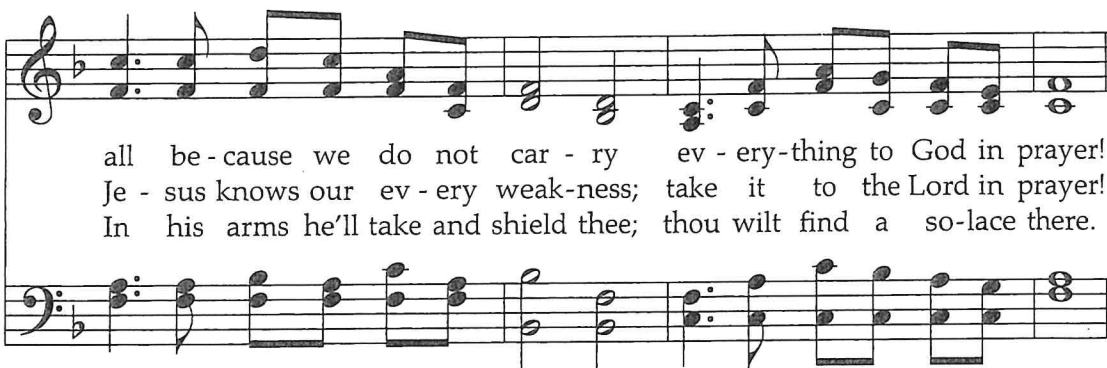
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge; take it to the Lord in prayer!



O what peace we of - ten for - feit; O what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so - lace there.