

October 25, 2026 + 10:30 A.M.
Twenty-Third Sunday of Pentecost/Stewardship Sunday

We Join in Worship

Liturgist: Patti Lis

*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
Prayground, the extra space across the aisle from the sound booth.*

PRELUDE *Open the Eyes of My Heart* Paul Baloché

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from *Psalms* 90)

Leader: LORD, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

ALL: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days!

Leader: A thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed.

ALL: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days!

Leader: Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands—O prosper the work of our hands!

ALL: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days!

***OPENING HYMN:** “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” (260), in honor of Reformation Sunday

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leader: In one of his letters to the church in Corinth, Paul writes, “Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! Quite apart from us you have become kings! If only you had become kings, so that we might be kings with you!” Together let us confess our need to share the riches that we have.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of abundance, we trust that your grace is sufficient to forgive that which we confess. We confess that we do not trust your promise of abundance, and so we live out of scarcity. We confess that we rely on individual wealth, and so we fail our communities. We confess that we hoard our physical resources, and so we contribute to others’ poverty. We confess that we prioritize ourselves, and so we fail to live generously. Remind us of your promise of abundance. Remind us of our call to help others with the fullness of our resources. Inspire us to be the good news with our generosity. In the name of Jesus Christ, who gave his all for all, we pray. Amen.

KYRIE: Glory to God, No. 579 (unison)

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear the good news! Jesus comes to us with love in a spirit of gentleness.

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

GLORIA PATRI (577)

Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now, ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

STATEMENT OF FAITH (adapted from *The Confession of 1967*)

Leader: God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.

ALL: God has endowed humans with capacities to make the world serve their needs and to enjoy its good things. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage. People are free to seek life within the purpose of God: to develop and protect the resources of nature for the common welfare, to work for justice and peace in society, and in other ways to use their creative powers for the fulfillment of human life.

We Hear God's Word

EMBODIED WORD FOR DISCIPLES OF ALL AGES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find wisdom, and in your will discover your peace. In the name of Jesus Christ our risen Lord we pray. Amen.

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON: *Malachi 3:10-12*

EPISTLE LESSON: *1 Corinthians 4:8-21*

GOSPEL LESSON: *Matthew 10:7-16*

SERMON: Be the Good News

MUSICAL MEDITATION: *Open Our Eyes*

We Respond in Faith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

OFFERING INVITATION:

Leader: God calls us to be the good news for a world so desperately in need of it. Let us give our tithes and offerings so that we can continue to do so together as the Church. 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 *I Love To Tell the Story*

A Catherine Hankey/William G. Fischer

*DOXOLOGY (592)

**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! Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Unison)

God of abundance, we dedicate these gifts to you and the work of being the good news. We pledge to be the good news with our actions, with our resources, and with our love. In the name of Jesus Christ, who gave his all for all, we pray. Amen.

We Go into the World

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Take My Life" (391)

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Great Is the Lord*

Michael W. Smith/Deborah D. Smith

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PEEK AT THE WEEK:

SUNDAY 10/25:	Adult Study – 9:00 AM Worship in Person & Online – 10:30 AM
MONDAY 10/26:	GA – 6:30 PM Al-Anon – 7:00 PM
TUESDAY 10/27:	Prayer Shawl – 1:00 PM Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (FH) AA – 7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY 10/28:	Private Flute Lessons 2-8 PM (FH) "Bring Your Own Bible" Bible Study 7-8 PM (Zoom) GA – 7:00 PM
THURSDAY 10/29:	Choir – 7:00 PM
SATURDAY 10/31:	Sackurday – 12:00 PM AA – 6:30 PM
SUNDAY 11/1:	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS ALL SAINTS' DAY Communion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **ALL SAINTS' DAY NOVEMBER 1ST** Next Sunday will be our celebration of All Saints' Day. We will remember the saints in our lives who have joined the Resurrection. We will celebrate the truth that the Church is a community that spans both heaven and earth.
- **WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING** We will be collecting this special offering of the PC(USA) throughout October. You can find envelopes in the narthex.
- **PLEDGE CARDS IN THE MAIL NOVEMBER 5TH** Keep your eyes out for this year's pledge cards and stewardship campaign letter! We ask that you bring the pledge cards back for Commitment Sunday, November 22. There will be a luncheon that day to celebrate our collective generosity!
- **"BYOB"** (Bring Your Own Bible) discussion group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm online using Zoom. Each week this group takes a look at the scriptures from our Sunday worship services, asking questions, bringing up different perspectives, and hopefully encountering the Holy Spirit in a fresh way. The link for the Zoom meetings is emailed out weekly. If you're not familiar with how to use Zoom, or to get on our e-mail list, please contact Pastor Tyler or Heather Casiano. All belong! You can join even if you have never done so before!
- **"THE BIBLE IN TODAY'S WORLD"** study class meets on Sunday mornings from 9-10 am at the church. We are excited to be using the study guide *United through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians*. If you have any questions, contact Heather Casiano. All are welcome! You can join even if you have never done so before!
- **FELLOWSHIP HOSTING** We are asking folks to sign up to host fellowship time. 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!
- **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 bring non-perishable foods 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 by Door D or in the narthex.

Prayer List

Anthony
Brady Vanes
George Griner
Guy Hendricks
David Markley
David Kingen
Diana and Ray Mendoza
Janet Orem
Cindy Waltz and Sister
Yvonne Suroviak
Georgette and Garry Sknerski
Jakob Holden
Denise Matthys
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
Renee Williams
Kay Johnson

Malachi 3:10-12

¹⁰ Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. ¹¹ I will rebuke the locust for you, so that it will not destroy the produce of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says the Lord of hosts. ¹² Then all nations will count you happy, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

1 Corinthians 4:8-21

⁸ Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! Quite apart from us you have become kings! If only you had become kings, so that we might be kings with you! ⁹ For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, as though sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to humans. ¹⁰ We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are sensible people in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are honored, but we are dishonored. ¹¹ To the present hour we are hungry and thirsty, we are naked and beaten and homeless, ¹² and we grow weary from the work of our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; ¹³ when slandered, we speak kindly. We have become like the rubbish of the world, the dregs of all things, to this very day.

¹⁴ I am not writing this to make you ashamed but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵ For though you might have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers. Indeed, in Christ Jesus I fathered you through the gospel. ¹⁶ I appeal to you, then, be imitators of me. ¹⁷ For this reason I sent you Timothy, who is my beloved and trustworthy child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ Jesus, as I teach them everywhere in every church. ¹⁸ But some of you, thinking that I am not coming to you, have become arrogant. ¹⁹ But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. ²⁰ For the kingdom of God depends not on talk but on power. ²¹ What would you prefer? Am I to come to you with a stick or with love in a spirit of gentleness?

Matthew 10:7-16

⁷ “As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ⁸ Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹ Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. ¹⁶ I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.”

Be the Good News

Malachi 3:10-12; 1 Corinthians 4:8-21; Matthew 10:7-16

Dear ones, I know that you are ready for a lesson in New Testament Greek! I am sure that's why you came to church today! I can't blame you! It's one of my favorite subjects as well! You're going to love it! Here's the word: εὐαγγέλιον. "Yu-ang-ghel-ee-on." Ἀγγέλιον contains within it a beautiful word that we know very well in English: "Angel." And what does an angel do? Bring the message, deliver the news. Within our religious traditions we use that word "angel," ἄγγελος, particularly to describe a messenger of God, a being who delivers God's news. And then we have that "eu," that epsilon upsilon. You may know that lovely root word from such beauties as euphoria, euphemism, and my personal favorite from 11 blessed years of playing it in concert bands: euphonium! The best instrument, of course. Well at least a very *good* one. Ah yes, "eu" means "good!" εὐαγγέλιον—Good News! Well done, class! I told you that you'd love it!

Now let's do a bit of an English lesson. "Gospel." That one of a kind word that we Christians use so much. The four gospels. The gospel of Jesus Christ. And, of course, gospel music! Praise God from whom all blessings flow for the blessing of gospel music! Well, "Gospel" is a combination word from Old English—*god* meaning good and *spel* meaning story or message. The good story! The good message! The good news! Aha! I think you are all ready to be biblical translators! What we have as "Gospel" in English is εὐαγγέλιον in Greek. The Gospel is the good news! Hallelujah!

Now that word εὐαγγέλιον goes directly into some English words. You can hear the connection if you open your ears—evangelism, evangelist, evangelical. Now *those* are some loaded words in this day and age! Some folks seem to think that Presbyterians and other mainline Protestant denominations are allergic to words like those because of the political and sociological weight that they carry today. But on this Reformation Sunday, when we celebrate our particular tradition, I say it is high time that we reclaimed those words! If εὐαγγέλιον simply means the good news, the gospel, then we are certainly evangelists! Hey! We are evangelical evangelists steeped in evangelism! For we are all about the good news! We are all about the good news that Jesus taught! We are all about the good news that Jesus embodied! We are all about the good news that Jesus *was*!

He started his public ministry by going to the synagogue in his home town of Nazareth, unrolling the scroll of Isaiah, and reading,

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,

because he has anointed me

*to proclaim **GOOD NEWS** to the poor.*

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners

and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:18-21).

The scripture, the Word, the GOOD NEWS, was fulfilled in their hearing. He was the embodiment of it. He was the Word made flesh. He *was* the good news! And he would be the good news throughout his life. He would pay particular attention to the poor, ensuring that they had enough food—not just to eat but to truly enjoy—dignifying their humanity, honoring their gifts, and even inciting a riot at the temple because they were being exploited. He would set free the prisoners—delivering those who were possessed by demons, unbinding those who were bound by imperial chains, and even declaring to the one being executed by the State beside him: "Today you will be with me in paradise." He would heal the multitudes—giving sight to the blind, staunching the blood of the hemorrhaging, mobilizing the immobilized, touching the leper, and even bringing the dead back to life. He would liberate the oppressed—growing a Kingdom community that defied the empire, creating systems of equity, and giving commandments of love that ensured right relationship between human beings. He would proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, the Jubilee year, by embodying God's extravagant abundance.

There would be belonging for all. There would be food enough for all. There would be love enough for all. Oh yes, he *was* the good news indeed!

And he told his disciples to go out and proclaim the εὐαγγέλιον, the **GOOD NEWS**, using the same language as he had read from the scroll of Isaiah. And so he called his disciples to also fulfill the good news, to also *be* the good news. He commanded them: “Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.” Their proclamation was not to be one simply of speaking the words of the good news of the Kingdom. Their proclamation was to be an embodiment of the Kingdom. They were to actually bring the Kingdom near to those most in need—the poor, the incarcerated, the possessed, the sick, the outcast. They were to proclaim the good news by *being* the good news. I am reminded of that lovely saying often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: “Preach the Gospel at all times; use words if necessary.” And while they were doing it, they were to trust others to have opened their eyes to see and ears to hear and thus to have started embodying the good news themselves. For, they were to carry nothing with them but rather to experience God’s abundant provision through the hospitality of their hosts. By being the good news, they were inspiring others to be the good news. Now *that* sounds like evangelism!

After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and said, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.” Loved ones, this great commission is still the call upon our lives. “Proclaim the good news to the whole creation,” means, “Fulfill the good news for the whole creation,” means, “Be the good news for the whole creation.” As Jesus charged his disciples then, so Jesus charges us, his disciples, now.

Today is Stewardship Sunday, the starting point of a season in which we collectively commit ourselves and our resources to this call within our congregation. We Presbyterians, we Reformed and always Reforming Christians, believe in a connectional Church. We believe that we are stronger, more effective, and more abundant when we bring our resources together in community and labor together in community. When our individual gifts of time, talent, and treasure are combined with those of others, there is an exponential effect. It is like the individual fish and individual loaves that so beautifully and deliciously demonstrated Jesus’ embodiment of the goodness of God’s abundant love when they were compiled together and fed thousands. With our powers combined, we have more power! Captain Planet was onto something!

So, we are called to *be* the good news together. We are called to give generously of our monetary resources so that, when pooled with others’ gifts of monetary resources, these hearts, hands, and feet can keep beating, keep serving, and keep marching into the future. We are called to give generously of our time and energy so that, when pooled with others’ gifts of time and energy, we can evangelize more effectively and more enthusiastically. We are called to give generously of our spiritual gifts so that, when pooled with others’ spiritual gifts, we can feed the hungry, honor the poor, heal the sick, free the captives, liberate the oppressed, and embody God’s abundant love. We all have our different gifts. We all have our different resources. And all of it is necessary for us to actually *be* the good news together as a church!

And when we commit our time, talents, and treasure in community, it really works! Think back a few months to the storms that struck our community and impacted so many. Remember how we came together and embodied the good news of God’s love with our collective power (in truth, we are still doing it!)? Think back a few years to the pandemic that struck our world. Remember how we came together even while physically apart and embodied the good news of God’s love with our collective power! It still blows my mind, and it will forever blow my mind, how we have managed to persist with so much passion, joy and love! How blessed we are to be a blessing! How blessed we are to be the good news!

After Jesus gave that great commission, the book of *Mark* ends in this way: “And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.” May we commit ourselves to doing the same! May we be messengers! May we be angels! May we be evangelists! May we be the εὐαγγέλιον! May we be the good news! Amen!

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7

Martin Luther, 1529

Trans. Frederick Henry Hedge, 1852

Martin Luther, 1529



1. A might - y for - tress is our God, A bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, Our striv - ing would be los - ing;
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat - en to un - do us,
 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, No thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



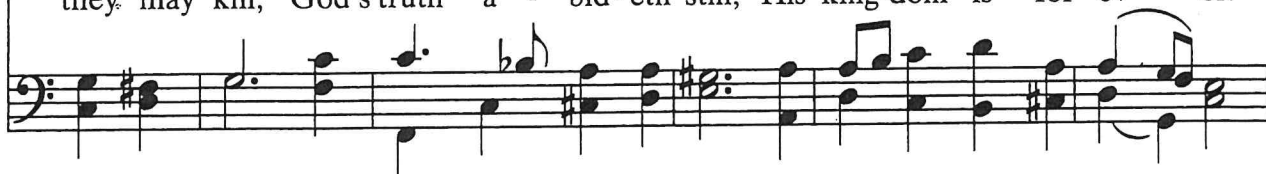
Our help - er He a - mid the flood Of mor - tal ills pre - val - ing.
 Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos - ing.
 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph through us.
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sid - eth;



For still our an - cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He, Lord Sab - a -
 The prince of dark - ness grim, We trem - ble not for him; His rage we
 Let goods and kin - dred go, This mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y



power are great, And, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.
 oth His name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.
 can en - dure, For lo! his doom is sure, One lit - tle word shall fell him.
 they may kill, God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.



Take My Life

HENDON 7.7.7.7

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874

H. A. César Malan, 1827

1. Take my life, and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee.
 2. Take my hands, and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love.
 3. Take my voice, and let me sing, Al - ways, on - ly, for my King.
 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with-hold;

Take my mo - ments and my days; Let them flow in
 Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beau - ti -
 Take my lips, and let them be Filled with mes - sa -
 Take my in - tel - lect, and use Ev - ery power as

cease - less praise, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
 ful for Thee, Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
 ges from Thee, Filled with mes - sa - ges from Thee.
 Thou shalt choose, Ev - ery power as Thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will, and make it Thine;
 It shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is Thine own;
 It shall be Thy royal throne,
 It shall be Thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 At Thy feet its treasure store.
 Take myself, and I will be
 Ever, only, all for Thee,
 Ever, only, all for Thee.