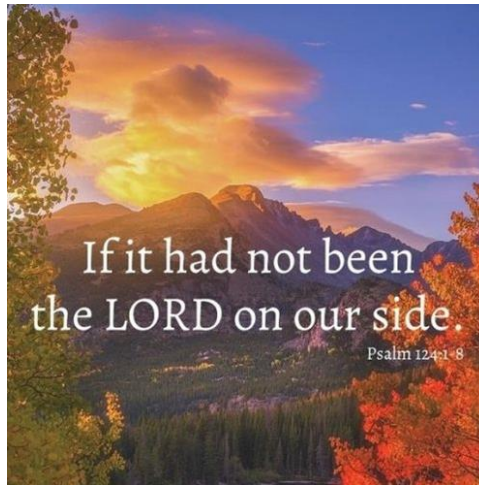


SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
CONSECRATION SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 21, 2021 11:00 AM



OPENING VOLUNTARY

THANKS BE TO THEE
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

G.F. HANDEL (1685-1759)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

O BEAUTY EVER ANCIENT
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

"ANCIENT BEAUTY"

O beauty ever ancient, O beauty ever new,
Divine and Holy Presence, my being sings to you,
In gratitude, in worship my being sings to you.

O beauty in creation, in world of sound and sight,
O beauty in the silence, in darkness as in light,
In gratitude, in worship my being sings to you.

O beauty that is movement in liquid line of grace,
O beauty that is stillness in lovely form or face
In gratitude, in worship my being sings to you.

O beauty of the Spirit where love is shining through,
O beauty ever ancient, O beauty ever new
In gratitude, in worship my being sings to you.

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side,
if it had not been the LORD who was on our side:

How would we have survived all the upheaval we have experienced?

Changes, transitions, pandemic, disagreements -

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side,
we would have been swept away, to worship no more.

The Lord showed us through each season,
We were not trapped, we remained faithful.

Blessed be the Lord who keeps promises,
Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth and calls us to be one.

Let us pray -

O God of enduring compassion and mercy, your dominion is unending, your judgements are right. We live by your grace alone and rest assured of your love. We praise you for the good news we find in Christ, who taught us how to honor you; we are filled with the Spirit, who is guiding us. We come into your presence seeking your wisdom as we follow you together. Make us new and keep us faithful. Amen.

* HYMN #32

I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD

"ELLACOMBE"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Holy One, we call to you and name you as eternal, ever-present, and boundless in love. Yet there are times, O God, when we fail to recognize you in the daily life we lead. Sometimes shame clenches tightly around our hearts, and we hide our true feelings. Sometimes fear makes us small, and we miss the chance to speak from our strength. Sometimes doubt invades our hopefulness, and we degrade our own wisdom. Holy God, in the daily round from sunrise to sunset, remind us again of your holy presence hovering near us and in us. Free us from shame and self-doubt. Help us to see you in the moment-by-moment possibilities to live honestly, to act courageously, and to speak from our wisdom. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SUNG RESPONSE #71

SURELY, IT IS GOD WHO SAVES ME (VERSE 1)

"FIRST SONG"

PASSING OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

We recognize how important we are to each other - as we worship, we pass the peace of Christ from our seats and wave to those who are joining us via Livestream. We belong to each other and are stronger together.

A TIME FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALM 132:1-12

¹O LORD, remember in David's favor all the hardships he endured; ²how he swore to the LORD and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob, ³"I will not enter my house or get into my bed; ⁴I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, ⁵until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob." ⁶We heard of it in Ephrathah; we found it in the fields of Jaar. ⁷"Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool." ⁸Rise up, O LORD, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. ⁹Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your faithful shout for joy. ¹⁰For your servant David's sake do not turn away the face of your anointed one. ¹¹The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne. ¹²If your sons keep my covenant and my decrees that I shall teach them, their sons also, forevermore, shall sit on your throne."

ANTHEM

A PSALM OF THANKSGIVING

TIMOTHY SHAW

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR, BRENDA LUGER, FLUTE

Come, all the earth, and praise the Lord.

Be joyful and sing, for the Lord is good.

God's mercy is forevermore;

Oh come, be joyful, praise the Lord.

Come, serve the Lord with grateful hearts.

Be thankful and sing, for the Lord is good.

God's truth will never, never fail;

Oh come, be thankful, serve the Lord.

You know the Lord is God who made us,

And we are God's. We are God's sheep,

The sheep of God's pasture.

Let us sing an allelu, alleluia.

Give thanks to God and bless God's name!

SECOND READING

2 SAMUEL 23:1-7

Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, son of Jesse, the oracle of the man whom God exalted,^[a] the anointed of the God of Jacob, the favorite of the Strong One of Israel:

² The spirit of the LORD speaks through me, his word is upon my tongue.

³ The God of Israel has spoken, the Rock of Israel has said to me: One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God,⁴ is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

⁵ Is not my house like this with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. Will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire?

⁶ But the godless are^[b] all like thorns that are thrown away; for they cannot be picked up with the hand;

⁷ to touch them one uses an iron bar or the shaft of a spear. And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

SERMON

"THE LORD IS ON OUR SIDE"

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #37

LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING

"ASH GROVE"

STEWARDSHIP HYMN #687

OUR GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST (VERSE 1)

"ST. ANNE"

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP: "THE LORD IS ON OUR SIDE"

STEWARDSHIP HYMN #687

OUR GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST (VERSE 6)

"ST. ANNE"

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)

MUSICAL DUET

OH LOVELY PEACE

G.F. HANDEL (1685-1759)

LAUREL PLITNIK, MIKAYLA DODGE, SOPRANOS

JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

O lovely peace, with plenty crown'd,

Oh spread thy blessings all around.

Let fleecy flocks the hills adore
and valleys smile with wavy corn.

* DOXOLOGY #36

FOR THE FRUIT OF ALL CREATION (VERSE 3)

"AR HYDY NOS"

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

LITANY OF THANKS

For the grace upon grace which is this community of faith – sanctuary and sermon,
music and mission, practices of hospitality, of learning, of discernment.

We give you thanks.

For grace we each bring to add to others' graces – our personal hopes and skills, the time we can share, the experiences from which we offer tenderness, our willingness to take responsibility or expose vulnerability.

We give you thanks.

For unexpected grace that sustains us in hard times – diagnosis, discouragement, downturn or despair.

We give you thanks.

For grace in the spaces – all those possibilities of next year, the new ways we will reach out,
the transitions completed and the transitions begun.

We give you thanks.

For the grace of prayer, the grace of scripture, the grace of forgiveness, the grace of the resurrection
promise, the grace of a single cup of cold water for a child, a stranger or a friend.

We give you thanks.

All these we have and do and will receive through Jesus Christ, who opens our hearts and hands so that
grace may flow through us to all the world.

For so many blessings we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

ACT OF CONSECRATION

(Please bring forward your pledge cards.)

* **HYMN #366**

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

“HYFRYDOL”

* **BENEDICTION**

* **RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #540**

FAREWELL, GOOD FRIENDS!

“SHALOM, CHAVERIM”

(Sung the first time in Hebrew and the second time in English.)

POSTLUDE

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

SIEGFRIED KARG-ELERT (1877-1933)

JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preacher..... Rev. Alison Peters
Liturgist..... Carolyn Mathews
Organist..... Judith Brown
Musicians..... The Sanctuary Choir; Brenda Luger, Flute; Laurel Plitnik & Mikayla Dodge, Sopranos
Audio/Video Technicians..... Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers..... Kathy Dowell and John Mullan

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE: Join the Churches of Washington Street for a Thanksgiving Eve Service at Emmanuel Parish this Wednesday, November 24th at 7:00 PM. Join us as we give thanks together!

THANKSGIVING OFFICE HOURS: Please note that the church office will be open until noon on Wednesday, November 24th, and closed on Thursday and Friday, November 25th and 26th, in observance of Thanksgiving.

OUR STAFF

Teaching Elder/Pastor..... Rev. Alison Peters
Director of Music Ministries Judith Brown
Executive Administrative Assistant..... Brittany Jackson
Sexton..... Zach Dodge
Sound Tech/Security..... Joe Aurigemma
Audio/Video Technician..... Eric Ringler

Music Notes

PEACE THANKS PRAISE

Three watchwords for this season of gratitude and thanksgiving. **The Music for this morning's worship service spans three centuries and reflects this joyful theme.**

"Thanks Be To Thee" is a seasonal tradition, with words of thanks being set in the 20th century to this 17th century aria. It is also known as "Largo" or "Ombra mai fu," the opening aria for Handel's opera "Xerxes," composed in 1738.

Timothy Shaw is a 21st Century American composer from New Hampshire and has enjoyed a multi-faceted career as composer, professor, church musician and author. His "Psalm of Thanksgiving" is a joyful setting in two parts with a recurring melody and flute obligato.

"Oh Lovely Peace" is an idyllic duet of another time employing anthropomorphic fantasy-like traits of "wavy corn" "valleys smile." It is pure joy which Handel composed as part of his "Judas Maccabeus" oratorio. The sonorous thirds in the duet are even more convincing of peace and tranquility as we journey back to the 18th century.

MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving our neighbors and promoting peacemaking, justice and care of the earth.

VISION STATEMENT

We strive to be a community grounded in the good news of God's love in Christ where all of God's children are:

- Welcomed and cherished
- Called to worship, learn and grow together in faith, and
- Sent to share God's love and justice with a broken and hurting world.

-Adopted by the Session on September 17, 2015

SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CLERK OF SESSION

David Stickler

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Cindy Corley & Gary Hendrickson

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Bob Courtney & Evan Swanger

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

Jan Layman & Mikayla Dodge

FAITH FORMATION

Josh Gilhart & Katie Ross

MISSION

Aaron Hendrickson & Judy Stern

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sharon Kazary & Carl Belt

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! We are proud of being a "Big Tent Church" where everyone is welcome to join us in worshiping and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage worshipers of all races, all women, men, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, all political parties, and all walks of life. We welcome you to worship with us.

WELCOME VISITORS: We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at www.fpc-cumberland.org and www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: We welcome you to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. Our "Young Children in Worship" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship.

THE PRAY-GROUND is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God's youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. "Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'" (Mark 10:14-15).

FRIENDSHIP PADS: Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the "Welcome to First Presbyterian Church" card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES: (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of their parents, Carl and Edna Belt and William and Doris Adkisson, and in honor of their children, Eleanor and Dave Madden and Meredith and Jeremy Irons, and their grandchildren, Quinn and Griffin Madden and Bryson and Brennan Irons, by Carl and Jane Belt. Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of someone. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund.

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS: Please use orange prayer request cards in the back of the sanctuary by the bulletins to share any joys and concerns. Place the card in the offering plate once you have completed your request. The ushers will bring them to the pastor during the offering.

CHURCH WIFI UPGRADE: This week our wireless network was fully upgraded by Smart Choice Computers. The new wireless user name is FPC Guest and the password remains [wehavewireless](#).

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: GARY HENDRICKSON & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of November 14, 2021
Total 2021 Pledges Promised	\$192,124.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 400.00
<u>2021 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$191,724.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$182,125.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$173,052.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 9,073.00

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

RULING ELDERS: JAN LAYMAN & MIKAYLA DODGE

✠ Sympathy and prayers to Sharon Squires and family on the death of her mother and life-long member, Elva Berry, on Thursday, November 18th.

HANGING OF THE GREENS: Join us on **Thursday, December 2nd** at **5:30 PM** in Fellowship Hall for evening of food and Christmas cheer at an intergenerational gathering designed to prepare us for the birth of Christ.

FAITH FORMATION

RULING ELDERS: JOSH GILAHART & KATIE ROSS

FAITH FORMATION ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY KITS: Do you have a child in your life? If so, we would like to offer you a fun and educational activity kit to share with the children in your life. Each kit will contain four activities along with some coloring pages and stories. If you would like an activity, please email the Church Administrative Assistant to request yours.

ADVENT IN PLAIN SIGHT: A DEVOTIONAL THROUGH TEN OBJECTS: The Faith Formation committee will be providing this daily devotional to anyone who is interested. In this devotional, author Jill Duffield, pulls the reader's attention to ten objects which appear in biblical narratives. "Advent in Plain Sight" prompts readers to see the near kingdom of heaven on earth and ponder what that divine proximity enables and asks us to do and be. We will also be using this devotional as the structure and resource for our weekly Sunday school class. **Join us Sunday mornings, beginning on November 28th from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM, for a time of discussion based around the devotions from "Advent in Plain Sight."** If you would like a copy of this advent devotional, please contact Joshua Gilhart.

LECTIO DIVINA: **Beginning Monday, November 29th and continuing each Monday of Advent,** tune-in to YouTube to for a time of scripture reading and meditation.

INCARNATION BOOK STUDY: Join Reverend Alison Peters for study on the book **"Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas,"** by Adam Hamilton. The class will take place at the church (and via Zoom) on **Thursday December 2nd, 9th, and 16th at 7:00 PM.** In this study we will examine the various names given to Jesus by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth. Please email Firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com to register for this class so we can order your book. We hope to see you there!

MISSION

RULING ELDERS: AARON HENDRICKSON & JUDY STERN

PRAYER REQUEST FROM FRIENDS OF PEB:

- Veda - For the litigation and legal matters of properties of PEB and for the return of three remaining schools from the government.
- Veda - For the growth of PEB schools, boarding houses and projects.
- Prayer for God's provision as this year comes to an end soon
- Prayer that God would give wisdom to the leadership of both FOPEB and PEB

Christmas Poinsettias 2021

If you wish to dedicate a Christmas poinsettia, please complete the tear-off sheet below and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office **by Sunday, December 12th**.

Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary for the 7:30PM Christmas Eve service. If you would like to take your poinsettia home, please do so after the service. If you do not wish to keep your poinsettia, please indicate below. Additional donations may also be made toward the Christmas flowers.

Please print names exactly as you wish them to appear in the bulletin and attach a check for \$6.00 for each poinsettia, marked "CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA".

Number of poinsettias: _____ at \$6.00 each Total \$ _____

I will pick up my poinsettia: ☐

I wish to donate my poinsettia: ☐

Additional Contribution for Christmas flowers: \$ _____ Total \$ _____

To the Glory of God in **Memory** or **Honor** (Please circle one) of: _____

By: _____

Please return your order no later than December 12th.

Christmas Music Offering 2021

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

TOTAL GIFT: \$ _____

To the Glory of God in **Memory** or **Honor** of: (Please circle one) _____

If you wish to dedicate Christmas Music in honor or memory of a loved one, please complete the tear-off sheet and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office.

Please print all the names exactly as you would like them to appear in the bulletin and attach a check designated "Christmas Music 2021" in the memo line. Proceeds from the Christmas Music Offering will be used to help defray the costs of seasonal guest musicians. **Please submit offering and dedication no later than Sunday, December 19th**.