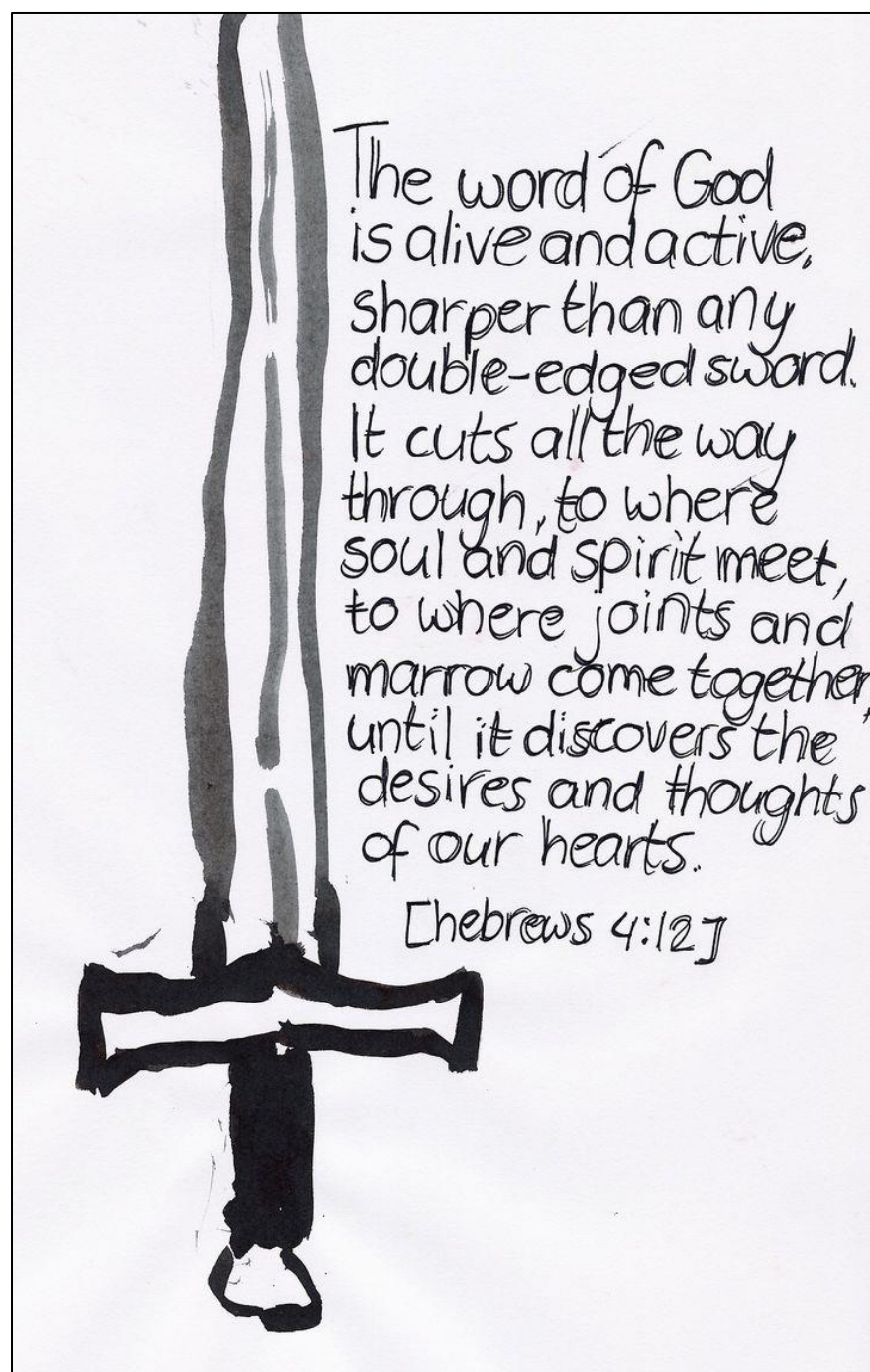


# First Presbyterian Church

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*Celebrating our history,  
we look toward our future.*



## The Order of Worship

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

September 24, 2017

**WELCOME.** We are delighted to have you with us this morning!  
Following the service, please join us downstairs to meet others  
and enjoy light refreshments.

## **As we enter the Fellowship Hall, let us prepare for worship.**

As we make the transition from “getting here” to “being here,”  
you are invited to take these moments  
to come fully into the presence of God and our faith community.

*Listen and hear God speak to you...*

*Respond quietly to God...*

*Speak to one another in love...*

Large Print Hymnals and Children’s Activity Bags are available from the Usher.

\*Please rise as you are able.

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## **Prelude**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **\*Call to Worship**

One: The grace of God was given to us in Christ Jesus,  
before the beginning of time.

**All: But that grace has now been revealed  
through the appearance of our Savior,  
Jesus Christ, who has destroyed death  
and has brought life and immortality to light  
through the gospel.**

One: It is this grace and faith we proclaim and hold on to.

**All: It is this God and Savior we worship.**

One: Let us praise and adore our living Lord.

### **\*Hymn #12**      *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”*

### **\*Prayer of Confession:**

One: God’s word to us says that “God knows those who  
belong to God” and that “everyone who confesses  
in the name of the Lord must turn away from  
wickedness.”

In that spirit, let us confess our sins before God  
and one another. Let us pray...

**All: Holy God, we cannot hide from you.**

**You know us, and you know everything about us:**

**our thoughts, our words, our actions,  
our motivations, our secrets, our doubts,  
our fears.**

**Neither ignoring or denying our wickedness makes  
it go away.**

**Only through acceptance and by confessing  
and turning away from our sin will we receive  
the forgiveness that washes us clean.**

**Creator God, we confess to you what you already  
know.**

**We ask for your forgiveness through Jesus Christ.  
We seek the strength to turn away  
from all that is offensive to you.**

**Through the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus  
Christ our Lord, we pray.**

One: Our prayers continue in silence.... Amen.

### **\*The Assurance of Pardon**

One: The Lord is faithful in all his words,  
and gracious in all his deeds.

**All: The Lord upholds all who are falling  
and raises up all who are bowed down.**

One: Friends, know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### **\*Celebration of Our Pardon**

Hymn #634 *“To God Be the Glory”* (stanza 1)

*To God be the glory, great things he has done;  
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory; great things he has done.*

## **\*The Peace**

One: Since God has forgiven us in Jesus Christ,

**All: Let us forgive one another.**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us share the signs of peace with one another.

*You are invited to greet those around you  
with words and signs of God's reconciling peace.*

## **Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 55:10-11 John 11:1-18

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon** *"Words of Faith"*

**\*Hymn #459** *"O Word of God Incarnate"*

**\*Affirmation of Faith** - from *A Declaration of Faith*

**God is made known to us through the Word of God.**

**God has not waited to be discovered.**

**The Lord has taken the initiative**

**and addressed God's Word to humankind**

**in many ways.**

**Through the Word of God the world was created.**

**The Word became flesh in Jesus Christ.**

**Through the Word of God**

**the new creation is being formed.**

**We believe God's Word is God's communication to us.**

**Although God is free to speak to us in unexpected ways,**

**we confidentially listen for God's Word**

**in Jesus Christ, in Holy Scripture, and in the worship,**

**preaching, teaching, and sacraments of the church.**

**Amen.**

## Reception of Tithes & Offerings

### \*Offertory Response

Hymn #634 *“To God Be the Glory”* (stanza 2)

*Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer and higher and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory; great things he has done.*

### \*Offertory Prayer

**The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer** (*Ecumenical*)

**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.**

**\*Hymn #192**     *“Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining”*

### \*Charge and Blessing

### \*Response

Hymn #455     *“Listen to the Word that God has Spoken”*

*Listen to the Word that God has spoken,  
listen to the One who is close at hand,*

*listen to the voice which began creation,  
listen even if you don't understand.*

## **Postlude**

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***THIS SERVICE*** is broadcast each Sunday on station KDWA 1460 AM/97.7 FM, and is lived streamed on [www.kdwa.com](http://www.kdwa.com)

### **Volunteers This Morning:**

Greeter: Karen Altpeter

Usher: Mary Crawmer

Lay leader: Dave Hume

### **Volunteers Next Sunday, October 1 (World Communion):**

Greeter: Carlotta Mullins

Usher: Judy Becker

Lay leader: Marcia Caneff

Communion Server: Dave Hume

**Prayer Requests/Prayer Chain:** Prayer requests can be written on the blue cards found on the tables. If you would like the confidential prayer chain of FPCH to continue in prayer for your request, write that on the card. Pass the card to the pastor during the Passing of the Peace. You may contact the prayer chain at any time by contacting the Deacon listed on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.

**Ministers:** Every member of the congregation

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Steve Robertson

**Lead Musician:** Pat Dymacek, **Pianist:** Karen Altpeter

**Session:** Karen Altpeter, Dennis Brown, Mary Crawmer, David Hume, Brenda Reiter, Grant Tiefenbruck (Clerk of Session)

**Deacons:** Carolyn Blumeyer, Margaret Brown, Sonia Christian, Helen Ott, Shannon Stenzel, Becky Tiefenbruck

## Announcements

### **Contribute to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is on the ground in both Texas and Florida, not only helping congregations and their members, but reaching out through those congregations to the larger communities they serve. PDA provides emergency support in the days immediately following the disaster, and remains in the communities for months and years to come to help families rebuild and begin life again. **Our congregation will receive a special offering through October 1st to support the work of PDA.** You may send or bring your gift to the church in the next two weeks to be included.

### **Peace and Global Witness Offering**

The Peace and Global Witness Offering will be received during worship on World Communion Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. The offering supports the justice and peacebuilding work locally, within our presbytery, and nationally through our denomination.

### **Adult Bible Study – Begins Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am**

Pastor Steve will be leading a topical adult bible study on Sunday mornings during the month of October, beginning at 9:30 am. These 45-minute times of conversation will be an opportunity to deepen our connection with scripture in light of contemporary issues. Watch and listen for more detailed information in the weeks to come. And let Pastor Steve know some of the current issues that may be on your mind these days that you would like to see considered in the study time.

The **Board of Deacons** will have their next meeting on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship.

### **PTCA Mission Celebration – Saturday, October 14**

Mission Celebration 2017 is coming in October, following the theme "Concerns of God's Heart." Organized by the Mission and



Witness Committee of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, the event is planned Saturday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Bloomington. Complete details about the celebration can be obtained from Pastor Steve.

**Our Mission:**

Following Christ, we strive to love and serve the world so that all may grow in faith and experience true joy.