

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
October 5, 2025

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA>

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation



*Trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

Psalm 37:3-4



Sermon based upon Psalm 37:1-9 and 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Our Mission

"Share God's love, embrace our neighbors, nurture each other."

*The Service for the Lord's Day
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday*

PRELUDE *The Gift of Love* John Leavitt

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor

MINUTE FOR MISSION Anne Madonia, Office Complex

*CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist

One: From north and south and east and west,

All: all Creation sings forth your praises!

One: The mountains and the hills burst into song;

All: the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

One: Your steadfast love never ceases.

All: With joy and peace, let us worship God together.

*OPENING HYMN *O God of Every Nation* GTG 756

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O God of every nation, of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.
Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.

From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.

Lord, strengthen those who labor that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter, your still small voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter, your servants under-gird.

Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor

Gracious Lord,

you created the whole world and called it good, but we look out at your world and see division and suffering. You call us to maintain the unity of spirit in the bond of peace, but we choose division over diversity, confrontation over civility, conflict over peace born from justice. You call us to love the least of these among us, but we hear the cries of the oppressed and choose our own comfort. We allow senseless suffering rather than sacrifice for our neighbors. Forgive us. Grant us fresh vision to see one another as siblings in Christ. Rekindle in us your gifts — the spirit of power, love and self-discipline — that with faith in Christ, we might be made new and be part of bringing forth your peaceable kingdom. Amen.

Silent prayers of confession may be offered.

CONFSSIONAL RESPONSE

Kyrie

PH 572

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus be with you all.

All: And also with you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

We Are Forgiven

GTG 447

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

(repeat once)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading:

Liturgist

2 Timothy 1:1-14

(NT pg.211)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor

CHOIR ANTHEM

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
Chancel Choir

Sebastian Temple

Second Reading:

Pastor

Psalms 37:1-9

(OT pg.510)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor

The Nicene Creed (Ecumenical)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son), who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

We Come as Guests Invited

GTG 504

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We come as guests invited when Jesus bids us dine,
his friends on earth united to share the bread and wine;
the bread of life is broken, the wine is freely poured
for us, in solemn token of Christ our dying Lord.

We eat and drink, receiving from Christ the grace we need,
and in our hearts believing on him by faith we feed;
with wonder and thanksgiving for love that knows no end,
we find in Jesus living our ever-present friend.

One bread is ours for sharing, one single fruitful vine,
our fellowship declaring renewed in bread and wine:
renewed, sustained and given by token, sign and word,
the pledge and seal of heaven, the love of Christ our Lord.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Liturgist

Call to Offering

Offertory

Air

Eric Thiman

*The Doxology

GTG 606

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. -Amen-***

Invitation to the Table

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, God of all Creation, for the blessing of your earth and all your children, for the mercies you pour forth in fresh rains and harvests of plenty, for joy that comes in the morning. We are a grateful people. You created a world of harmony and peace, but our yearning for power and privilege throughout history led to division and conflict, suffering and violence. We give thanks that you sent prophets and poets to lament and remind us to bear witness and call us to yet a better way, to write the vision of a peaceable kingdom for all to see. With fresh eyes and renewed hope, we join our voices with those around the world and with your heavenly chorus to sing:

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.

We give you thanks that in the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus to bear witness to your mercy, grace and love. In his living, he showed us how to love. In his dying, he offered us undeserved mercy. In his rising, he granted us grace. Through the gift of faith, even faith as small as a mustard seed, his witness rekindles in us the gifts of God, not so that we can hold onto these gifts for ourselves but so that we can be united across the globe as one family of faith gathered around one table, sharing in one holy meal, sustained by a love that binds us together in peace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon our many tables trusting that Christ is the host of our sacred meal together. May the blessing of grain from the earth and fruit of the vine be a reminder of the true joy of communion that unites us in one worldwide covenant of love.

All glory and honor are yours, Holy God, through Christ and in the unity of the Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Serving of the Great Feast

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor

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.

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
 Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
 In my love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever.
 Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.
 Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
 Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
 Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
 Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

My Peace

Keith Routledge

POSTLUDE

Holy, Holy, Holy

Arr. Sir David Willcocks

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

Welcome to our visitors today!

We are glad you are here and we hope you will join us for worship again. If you are interested in joining our church, there are three ways you may do so. They are letter of transfer from your church of previous membership, reaffirmation of faith if you have already been baptized; and baptism and affirmation of faith if you have not been baptized. If you are interested in joining, please ask our pastor, or one of our elders, for more details.

Need help hearing the service? Receivers connected to the sound system are available in the Narthex. Just ask an usher.

Please use the friendship register located in the pew to indicate your presence in worship. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please include your address, telephone number, and e-mail.

Let the children come to me: Children & Youth of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to actively participate in worship. For those desiring supportive materials, "sermon notes" for young children through older youth are available in the narthex. Clipboards and crayons are also available to take to your pew. Please return them to the narthex after the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Archie Vipperman and Anne Abercrombie by the Archie Vipperman family.

We will be having a new cooling tower installed Thursday and Friday this week. There will be on A/C in the building beginning Wednesday afternoon.

The FPC Women's Circle Meeting is Monday, October 6th at King's Grant at 11:00 AM. Nancy Davis will be leading lesson 2. If you are not a King's Grant resident, please sign in at the front desk and purchase your lunch ticket for \$12 upon arrival.

The Community Breakfast is Saturday, October 18th led by Bill and Suzan Kirby. Cooking begins at 7:00 AM and breakfast is served from 8:00 - 9:30 AM. Reach out to Suzan (276-358-0075) if you are available to cook, serve, or clean.

The October Presbytery Meeting will be held on October 23rd at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 3911 Greenland Ave, NW, Roanoke, VA. This will be an all-day meeting. Registration will open on October 6th. For more information visit: <https://www.peakspresbytery.org/new-presbytery-meeting-information/>

Chancel Choir and Sanctuary Ringers rehearsals are Wednesdays in the Music Workshop room. Join the **Sanctuary Ringers rehearsals at 5:30 PM**, and the **Chancel Choir for rehearsal 6:30 PM**. Reach out to our new Interim Music Director, Craig Campeau, if you are interested in joining either, or both choirs.

Share the Parking Lot. Teachers and staff from Patrick Henry Elementary School are using our parking as the school's parking lot is undergoing extensive drainage issue repairs that will take several weeks to complete.

We are currently looking for music subs for our worship services until we are able to hire a new music director. If they only play piano that will be fine. If you have a suggestion of someone that might be interested, please contact Janet Fentress (276 618-0153) or Judy King (276 340-8101).

Be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (various household items and toiletries) and **Grace Network (Pork & Beans 15 oz.)** (Other needs: toilet paper, deodorant, bath soap, toothpaste, feminine products, dish and laundry detergent) when you do your grocery shopping. Both agencies depend on us for assistance.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Sue Benfield, Bud Buffkin, Anna Beth Burton (L. & D. Ferrell), Evelyn Cannaday, Hank Childress (Ford Childress' brother), Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Marge Dunn, Martin Ford, Doug Goldstein, Marvin Hudson, Jamelle Waid Linker (Ed Linker's daughter-in-law), Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Leslie Naradikian (Marion Miller's daughter), Maggie Pilson, Rusty Reaser, Richard Komorowski (M&N Davis), Cecil Robbins, Sandra Roberts (sister of Kat Walker), Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, , Tammy Tucker Wardinski, Jodi White (sister of P. Marshall/G. Chaney), persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries, and families and areas devastated by severe weather.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, October 5

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Communion

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

Monday –Friday

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Weekday School

School in Session

Lunch Buddies

Monday, October 6

11:00 AM

Presbyterian Women Circle Meeting at King's Grant

Wednesday October 8

5:30 PM

6:30 PM

Handbell Rehearsal

Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 12

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

Tuesday, October 14

9:00 AM

Cooks Who Care

Wednesday October 15

5:30 PM

6:30 PM

Handbell Rehearsal

Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, October 18

8:00-9:30 AM

Community Breakfast (cooking begins at 7:00 AM)

Sunday, October 19

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

Thursday, October 23

10:30 AM

Presbytery Meeting

Stewardship Meeting

Sunday, October 26

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

Monday, October 27

4:00 PM

Session Meeting

| DATE | LITURGIST | USHERS/GREETERS |
|------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| October 5 | Ashby Pinkard | Duke and Liz Ferrell |
| October 12 | Lynn Pritchett | Randy and Martha Rollins |
| October 19 | Barbara Duncan | Billy and Sharon Kirby |
| October 26 | Liz Ferrell | Johnny and Ashby Pinkard |

If you cannot serve on the Sunday scheduled, please find a substitute.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM