

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026

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

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation 



Sermon based upon *Matthew 20:1-16* and *Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45*

Our Mission

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

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

*Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Gavotte* J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor

*CALL TO WORSHIP from *"Praying for the Dawn"* Liturgist

One: In the days, when there is no paid work.

All: In the days, when no one is willing to hire me.

One: In the days, when the system wears me down.

All: Remind me God, you love me and need me.

*OPENING HYMN *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* GTG 81

John Newton (1775) Franz Joseph Haydn (1797) PUBLIC DOMAIN

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage?
Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor

Gracious God,

forgive us when we grumble and complain against your goodness as the Israelites did in the desert, as the workers in the field did to the landowner. We judge and weigh your gifts according to our standards. We often question your fairness instead of receiving your grace with thanksgiving and joy. Help us to see your world through your eyes and with your spirit of generosity and grace, that we may welcome the chance to serve in your kingdom and all who join with us. Forgive us, Lord, in your grace and mercy through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Silent prayers of confession may be offered.

CONFESSIONAL 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. (x2)***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading:

Liturgist

Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45

(OT pg. 556)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us

GTG 280

(sung to tune of Called as Partners in Christ's Service)

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Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; come with Pentecostal power;
give the church a stronger vision; help us face each crucial hour.
Built upon a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone,
still the church is called to mission that God's love shall be made known.

We would raise our alleluias for the grace of yesteryears;
for tomorrow's unknown pathway, hear, O Lord, our humble prayers.
In the church's pilgrim journey you have led us all the way,
still in presence move before us, fire by night and cloud by day.

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; give us words of fire and flame.
Help our feeble lips to praise you, glorify your holy name.
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in one: what mystery!
We would sing our loud hosannas now and through eternity.

Second Reading:

Pastor

Matthew 20:1-16

(NT pg.21)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Bea Miller

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor

One: In life and in death we belong to God.

All: Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

One: In a broken and fearful world

All: The Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

One: In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

All: We strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

One: With believers in every time and place,

All: We rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

We Are One in the Spirit

GTG 300

Peter Scholtes Words: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 The Lorenz Corporation;
Music: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 The Lorenz Corporation CCLI License # 2244459

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Chorus

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: (chorus)

We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
We will work with each other; we will work side by side,
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride: (chorus)

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (chorus)

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 OF OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Reception of New Members

Pastor

On behalf of the session, I present all these beautiful people who have been received into the membership of this congregation by both transfer of letter and reaffirmation of faith and who live, worship and serve among us as faithful visitors.

Hear these words from scripture:

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,
One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Will those of you who are choosing to join in full church membership, be faithful members of this congregation, share in its worship and mission through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be disciples of Jesus Christ?
I will, with God's help.

Will those of you who are faithful visitors among us, continue to share in our worship and mission through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be disciples of Jesus Christ?
I will, with God's help.

Please join me in prayer:

Holy God, thank you for calling us to be your people and joining us to Christ's body, the church. We praise you for leading all these people to First Presbyterian. Empower us by your Spirit, that we might love one another as Christ loved us, honoring him in all that we say and do, giving our lives in service to others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Call to Offering

Liturgist

Offertory

Grateful

M. Hayesp

***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-

Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist

We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
To plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

We all are called for service to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:
To touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace
So every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.

Now let us be united and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

O Jesus, I Have Promised

GTG 724

Public Domain

***O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.***

POSTLUDE

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

B. Marcello

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



New members and regular attendees will be recognized during our worship service today. Following the service join us for Lemonade on the Lawn to celebrate our new friends.



New Members: Debra Blankenship, Ford Childress, Jane Fitzgerald, Betsy Ham, Louise Lindsay, Peter Marshall, Bob and Marty Sherwood, Bill Stone, and Vincent Stone.

Frequent Attendees: Rob, Holly and Gray Burton, Therese and Alex Craddock, Maxine Edwards, Barbara Folan, Debbie Handy, Suzanne Hutchens, AJ and Carol Ann Melton, and Marshall Pinkard.

Vicky, our bookkeeper, will be out of the office Monday, September 21st – 25th. No checks will be written that week. Any urgent financial questions or requests should be directed towards Billy Kirby.

The church office will be closed Wednesday, September 23rd for staff to attend a Board of Pensions Benefits Workshop about major changes for 2027.

A Celebration of Life service for Laura Stevens will be held on **Saturday, September 26th at 11:00 AM.** A reception for the family will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall downstairs.

The next Session meeting will be Monday, September 28th at 4:00 PM in the session room.

Rita, our office manager, will be out of the office Wednesday, September 30th – Tuesday, October 6th. Contact Vickie for any general needs, or Pastor Bea for any urgent matters.



Our Fall Church Partnership picnic will be on Sunday October 11th, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm, at Jack Dalton Park. Join us for food, fellowship, fun and games, and live music! Members of FPC, Grace PC, and Collinsville PC are all invited! More details to come in the weeks ahead. Questions, text Ione (310) 951-5138 or Taylor (276) 732-9525.

When you do your grocery shopping be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (*various household items and toiletries*) and **Grace Network** (*Juice 40-64 Oz*). Other needs: toothpaste, toothbrush (individually wrapped), dish and laundry detergent, toilet paper, deodorant, bath soap, and feminine products. Both agencies depend on us for assistance.



Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

If you need to conduct office business outside these hours, please call to make an appointment.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Laura Stevens, Barbara Adams (Patsy Stanley), Ernest Bremner, Evelyn Cannaday, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), Bob Davis, Nancy Davis, Marge Dunn, Sandra Ford, Michelle Handy (Pearl Minter's daughter), Randy Lawson (P. Stanley), Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Marion Miller, Maggie Pilson, Ann Reaser, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Rebecca Smith (P. Stanley), Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, 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, September 20

9:00 AM

Sunday School

10:00 AM

Worship in Sanctuary/New Members & Regular

Attendees will be recognized

~Lemonade on the Lawn

Monday –Friday

Weekday School

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

School in Session

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Lunch Buddies

Wednesday, September 23

Church Office Closed

BOP Benefits Workshop in Roanoke

5:30 PM

Handbell Rehearsal

6:30 PM

Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, September 26

11:00 AM

Laura Stevens ~ Celebration of Life Service

Sunday, September 27

2-Cents a Meal Offering

9:00 AM

Sunday School

10:00 AM

Worship in Sanctuary

~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 28

4:00 PM

Session Meeting

Wednesday, September 30

5:30 PM

Handbell Rehearsal

6:30 PM

Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 4

Communion

9:00 AM

Sunday School

10:00 AM

Worship in Sanctuary

~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 7

5:30 PM

Handbell Rehearsal

6:30 PM

Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 11

9:00 AM

Sunday School

10:00 AM

Worship in Sanctuary

~Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

1:00-5:00 PM

Community Picnic at Jack Dalton Park

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS	2ND CUP
September 20	Liz Ferrell	Ron Rebman, Judy King	<i>Lemonade on the Lawn</i>
September 27	Billy Kirby	Bob Wuetefeld, Barbara Duncan	Joe and Jerri DeVault
October 4	Sharon Kirby	Bill and Suzan Kirby	Gale and Christy Buck
October 11	Ione Linker	Joe and Jerri DeVault	Janet Fentress, Judy King
October 18	Mary Linker	Duke and Liz Ferrell	Ione Linker, Mary Linker
October 25	Pearl Minter	Randy and Martha Rollins	Joe and Susan Smith

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

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