

GATHERING

Lord Jesus, I do not know what crosses may arise before me, but give me courage to resist systems of injustice, strength to reject structures of oppression, and wisdom to unmask powers of evil, that I may live as a faithful disciple whose life belongs to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Laurie Shorter, Senior Saints

PRELUDE

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

P. Manz

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Abraham set out for his inheritance.

He stayed in the promised land living in tents.

He looked forward to the city that has foundations,
whose architect and builder is God.

* HYMN 403

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

UNSER HERRSCHER

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, we confess that, like the disciples, we set our minds not on divine things but on human things. Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need. Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink from living as your followers. Doubting your loving plan, we become stumbling blocks in your creation. Forgive us, that we may gain new life in you, for it is in Jesus' forgiving name we pray. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* ACT OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

Hymn 581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 4:9-16 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 4

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

City Called Heaven

J. Poelinitz

Chancel Choir; Alanna Parfait, soloist

I am a poor pilgrim of sorrow. I'm left in this whole wide world alone! Ain't got no hope for tomorrow, trying to make it heaven my home. Sometimes I'm tossed and I'm driven, Lord. Sometimes I just don't know which way to turn. Oh I heard of a city called heaven, trying to make it heaven my home.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Fred Lundy

(Afterward, children in kindergarten through 2nd grade will be dismissed to Kids-4-God.)

* **HYMN 72**

By the Babylonian Rivers

KAS DZIEDAJA

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Hebrews 11:8-10 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 225

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The City

Rev. Mark Hults

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONDING

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Prelude from Cello Suite No. 3

J.S. Bach

Melissa Milford, viola

* **DOXOLOGY**

Hymn 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.*

* **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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (8:30 A.M.)

(Gluten-Free Bread)

SENDING

* **HYMN 377**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

* **BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE**

Concerto in A Minor

J.S. Bach after A. Vivaldi

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Jonathon Haney, Mark Hults, Fred Lundy

ELDER ON DUTY: Rachel Coffey

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

EMERITUS DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Dr. Mark Coffey

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST: Shiyi Zhu

CHANCEL CHOIR

8:30 USHER: Jeanne Thomas; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Maralyn Foote, Perry Foote, Louis Motz, Mary Lou Schubert, Steph Tyler

A/V TEAM: Owen Best, Frank Counts, Dania Moreno, John Rayl, Elijah West

TODAY'S SERMON IS "THE CITY" and the primary reading is Hebrews 11:8-10. As we read about the city which is to come, mentioned in Hebrews 11:10, this leads to the September 6 sermon passage, Revelation 21:9-27. The Revelation 21 passage discusses the new Jerusalem when heaven and earth are remade, and we see this theme in the music of today and next week. Our gathering hymn, "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty," which is from the "GATHERING" section of our *Glory to God* hymnal, mentions heaven on earth in stanza 2. As Abraham "*was looking forward to the city with foundations*" in the Hebrews passage, the anthem looks forward to the "*city called heaven*." The hymn of the day, "By the Babylonian Rivers," relates to the idea of the city mourning over exile. As suggested by Mark Hults, our connection to this hymn and the service today is that we too live in Babylon, but something else is coming to redeem. The sending hymn, "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light," is from the *Glory to God* "A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH" section and the refrain says, "*The Lamb is the light of the city of God*."

The offertory and postlude are both by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). Bach was a German composer of the Baroque period who mastered and enriched the musical styles of Germany, Italy, and France. The postlude is an arrangement Bach made of a piece by Italian composer Antonio Vivaldi. Bach was known to sign SDG at the end of his manuscripts. SDG (Soli Deo Gloria) means "*To God alone, the glory*."

ACTION FOR THIS WEEK: Just as the end of Bach's manuscripts have a reminder to give glory to God, the beginning of our worship guides say, "*Glorify God*." How might you glorify God this week?

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We pray that you experience Christ's presence in our midst and that His presence will sustain you in the week ahead. Visitors are welcome to participate in the worship and the work of First Presbyterian Church. If you feel a call to commit your life to Jesus Christ and His Church, please speak to the pastor or an elder after worship.

Let Us Remember in Prayer and Correspondence: Leon & Jayne Fox and Jed Keesling. Our men and women in the services: Ashley Dace, Matt Gowdy, Brian Hill, Faith Thompson, and Dan Williams; and first responders: Nick Gonzalez and Paul Samala.

Senior Pastor

Rev. Mark Hults - pastor@1stpc.org

Director of Music and Organist

Mitch Rorick - music@1stpc.org

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

Fred Lundy - youngadult@1stpc.org

Director of College Ministry

Jonathon Haney - college@1stpc.org

Preschool Director

Lisa Hershkowitz - preschool@1stpc.org

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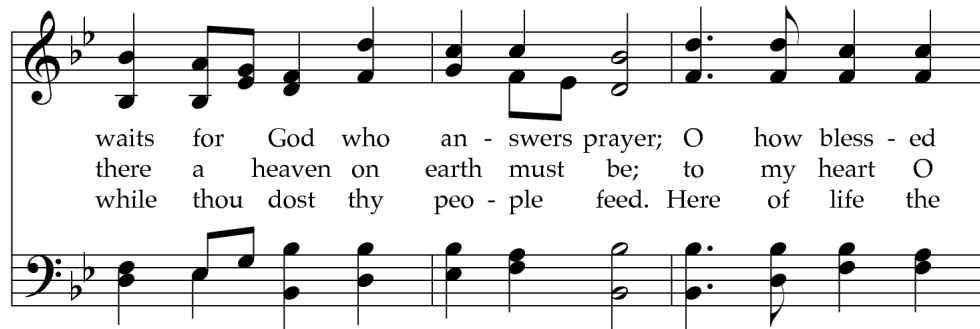
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty 403



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so
 3 Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be



en - ter there, where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
 un - to me; where we find thee and a - dore thee,
 done in - deed; may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee,



waits for God who an - swers prayer; O how bless - ed
 there a heaven on earth must be; to my heart O
 while thou dost thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the



is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace.
 en - ter thou; let it be thy tem - ple now.
 foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

In the first stanza "Zion" is not a general synonym for Jerusalem but a reference to the part of the city where the Temple stood. It prepares the way for the interior temple of the heart in stanza two. The pre-existing tune is by a prominent German Reformed hymnwriter.

TEXT: Benjamin Schmolck, 1732; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
 MUSIC: Joachim Neander, 1680; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863, alt.

UNSER HERRSCHER
 8.7.8.7.7.7

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 4:9-16 (NRSV)

⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ And the Lord said, "What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³ Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! ¹⁴ Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me." ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance." And the Lord put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him. ¹⁶ Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Hebrews 11:8-10 (NRSV)

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

By the Babylonian Rivers

72

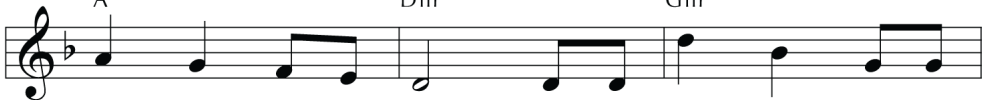
(Psalm 137)

Dm



1 By the Bab - y - lo - nian riv - ers we sat
2 There our cap - tors in de - ri - sion did re -
3 How shall we sing the Lord's song in a

A Dm Gm



down in grief and wept, hung our harps up - on the
quire of us a song; so we sat with star - ing
strange and bit - ter land; can our voic - es veil the

F Dm Gm Am Dm



wil - low, mourned for Zi - on when we slept.
vi - sion, and the days were hard and long.
sor - row? Lord God, hold your ho - ly band.

Babylon is both geographic and symbolic, the city where exiled Jews were taken and any place where people are forced to remain away from what is dear and holy to them. So we sing this paraphrase of Psalm 137 to its doleful minor tune in solidarity with all displaced people.

TEXT: Ewald Bash, 1964
MUSIC: Latvian melody; harm. Geoffrey Laycock, 1971
Text © 1964 American Lutheran Church (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

KAS DZIEDAJA
8.7.8.7

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377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at
 3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain

star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Ministry Highlights

Visit our website for more
about our church and
ministries.



The College Café Is Open!

All college students are invited to join us in the serving room for a delicious, homemade lunch! Bring your parents. Bring a friend. The menu changes weekly as it is chef's choice. Thank you to Kristin Pickens for hosting today's lunch! If you are interested in cooking/feeding our college students, please contact Jonathon Haney.



Thank You from Local Missions

The Local Missions Committee thanks the congregation for their support of our Gainesville ministries this summer. You faithfully provided canned goods, clothing, Bibles, backpacks, donations, and more. Thanks again for sharing God's love with our community by meeting human needs! And please continue to support our agencies during these busy fall months.

Senior Saints

Welcome back! Please join us when we gather on Friday, September 11, 2026 in Gordon Hall at 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be Sweet Berries (\$10 per person). The program is a fun surprise from one of our own! You'll love it! Also, we want to hear about, and list, many great ideas for next year's programs during our first meeting of this year! Let us know you're coming by replying to: 1stpcseniorsaints@gmail.com. Bring your ideas and we'll see you then!



Grow with Us - Today after 11 a.m. Worship

New to the church or here for years, we want to intentionally invite and inform YOU about the varied and interesting life of our church. Join us after worship today in Gordon Hall to explore interests and ministries of the church, like the Archives Project, Senior Saints, and Doctors Koinonia, along with Sunday school classes, Bible study groups, Property projects, PW, Choirs, Local missions, and Hospitality opportunities from Sunday cookies to pies. If you have any questions, email Evelyn Lewis, Chair of the Christian Education Committee, at citytr122@gmail.com.



All-Church Sunday Sundae Reception for Katherine Whisler

Come meet Katherine and learn about all the things she is doing already and has planned for the youth this year, and enjoy some ice cream, too! The Welcome Reception will be held in Gordon Hall on Sunday, September 13 after 11 a.m. worship and is hosted by the Search Committee, the Christian Education Committee, the Youth Committee, the LOGOS Committee, and our youth.

Children's worship guides are available at all entrances.

Pick-up a calendar page at any entrance or click the calendar link in the weekly email for all this week's ministry events. Not receiving the weekly invite? Email communications@1stpc.org to be added to the email list.

Online Contributions



Visit our website, www.1stpc.org, to make an online donation. Click the GIVE button at the top of the page. You can contribute to the General Budget or use the drop-down menu, change to Other, and specify the designated ministry in the memo section. Text contributions, bill pay through your bank, and electronic funds transfers are also options. Contact Trudy Bonerba.



T-Coil installed in the sanctuary, and Hearing Assist devices available in the Narthex.

Tune in to Cox Channel 11 from 9-10 a.m. for our televised broadcast  or MyTV 28.2 for over the air broadcasts

Current Worship video, audio, and archives at 1stpc.org

Ministries & Staff

At **First Presbyterian Preschool**, children are fully prepared for school in a caring, Christian environment. Classes are offered 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Early Childhood Accredited.

Preschool Director

LISA HERSHKOWITZ - preschool@1stpc.org

Our **Children and Youth Ministries** provide a multi-generational approach of Christian example as the church family comes alongside parents to lead children to become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

Nursery Care during worship for children 6 weeks through pre-kindergarten. **Contact:** Victoria Bernard - toraleighb@gmail.com

Kindergarten through 2nd grade children are excused from worship for **Kids-4-God** to spend time growing their faith on Sundays during the school year. **Contact:** Evelyn Lewis - citytr122@gmail.com

LOGOS is a mid-week ministry during the school year with worship arts, Bible time, recreation, and family dinner for students age 3 through high school. **Contact:** Bev Vloedman dvloedman@aol.com

Youth Connection meets for fellowship and food with Bible study and mentoring for students in grades 6-12.

Part-Time Youth Coordinator

KATHERINE WHISLER - 1stpcyouthgnv@gmail.com

Our **College Ministry** seeks to launch students into a life of pursuing Christ, trusting in Him, and growing with others. Join us for Sunday worship & a free lunch and Tuesday Bible study & a free dinner at 6:30 p.m. Bring a friend!

Director of College Ministry

JONATHAN HANEY - college@1stpc.org

Young Adult & Family Ministry (YA&FM) is for marrieds and singles, with or without kids, in grad school or in vocation. We gather for Bible Studies and to get to know each other better and would love the chance to do life with you.

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

FRED LUNDY - youngadult@1stpc.org

With choirs for ages three and above, our **Music Ministry** welcomes everyone to sing or ring and to dedicate their music to God. Our concert season includes Concerts for a Cause, which support local and global mission partners.

Director of Music and Organist

MITCH RORICK - music@1stpc.org

Additional Staff

Senior Pastor

REV. MARK HULTS - pastor@1stpc.org

Business Manager

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JOHN RAYL - png.1stpc@gmail.com

Head Sexton

TONY COGDILL

Sexton

MARGARET HILL

Glorify God
Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
Meet Human Needs



First Presbyterian
Church of Gainesville

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, August 30, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Job 18-19 - Steph Tyler - Library
- 9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Luke 12:13-34 - Jenny C. - Room 201
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Room 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Kids-4-God
- 12:00 p.m. Grow with Us - Gordon Hall
- 12:00 p.m. College Café - Serving Room

Monday, August 31, 2026

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
- 5:00 p.m. Local Missions - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. PW Circle 5 - Serving Room
Questions? Contact Beverly Vloedman - dvloedman@aol.com
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting - Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Trajectory College Bible Study

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

- 1:30 p.m. Chocolate Lovers PW Bible Study - Parlor
Questions? Contact Betsy Berry - betsypwberry@gmail.com
- 3:30 p.m. LOGOS
- 6:00 p.m. LOGOS Family Dinner - Birthday Night
- 6:30 p.m. Jubilate Ringers
- 7:30 p.m. Worship Committee

Thursday, September 3, 2026

- 7:00 a.m. YA&FM Men's Breakfast - Bagel Bakery
- 6:00 p.m. Carol Ringers - Room 215
- 7:00 p.m. Bell & Choir Party - Parlor
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Friday, September 4, 2026

Saturday, September 5, 2026

Sunday, September 6, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Job 20-21 - James Knight - Library
- 9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Luke 12:35-59 - Room 201
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Room 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Kids-4-God
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time - Gordon Hall
- 12:00 p.m. College Café - Serving Room

Monday, September 7, 2026

Church Office and Preschool Closed - Labor Day