

GATHERING

Good and gracious God, You promise to pour out Your Spirit upon us; You are the hope of the world. Give us strength, that we might serve You; make us humble, that we might live for Your glory alone. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Salut d'amour

E. Elgar

Linda Weltner, violin; Dr. Seoyun Rho, piano

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Righteous and gracious Lord, You reveal to us the way of goodness and life.

Teach us humility.

May we trust in Your power, and not our own.

Teach us obedience.

Make us ever grateful and faithful to Jesus.

Teach us gratitude.

May I live wholly for You daily!

*** HYMN 275**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, hope of Your people in every age, we confess that we have sinned against You. We have wandered from Your pathways, turned toward idols, lived without compassion, and disregarded the well-being of Your creation. Do not turn away from us, O Lord, but renew Your covenant, for only in You will our lives be healed. Guide us and lead us in Your ways, for happy are those who live in Your house. 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

Psalms 45:10-15 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 517

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (11 A.M.) **Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring** J.S. Bach
Jesu, joy of man's desiring, holy wisdom, love most bright. Drawn by Thee our souls aspiring, soar to uncreated light. Word of God our flesh that fashion'd with the fire of life impassion'd. Striving still to Truth unknown, soaring, dying, round Thy throne.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.) Sarah Whitfield
(Afterward, children in kindergarten through 2nd grade will be dismissed to Kids-4-God.)

* **HYMN 366** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling HYFRYDOL

GOSPEL READING John 3:25-30 (NRSV)
This is the Word of the Lord. NT pg. 94
Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Church as Bride Fred Lundy

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 SOLO Safe Within Your Arms M. Hayes
Campbell Graze, tenor

Whether I'm right or whether I'm wrong, whether I'm weak or whether I'm strong, whether I'm sure or may be confused, feeling loved or feeling used: I know a place where I can go, somewhere that winter winds don't blow. There I am warmed by loving arms, held with care next to Your heart. And I'm safe within Your arms, Lord. I've become a child again. I've come back to the source of love, where healing can begin. Though the world would say I must be strong and prove my worth by what I do, I will rest assured in Your embrace and find my strength in You. Whether I'm walking in the light or whether I'm stumbling through the night, You are a God whose promise endures; though undeserved, Your love is sure. When I am tempted to pursue plans that may lead me far away from You, gently You call, "My child, come home. I will never let go of one of my own."

* **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 299** You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim HANOVER

* **BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE** Rondeau from Premiere Suite J. Mouret

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Mark Hults, Fred Lundy, Sarah Whitfield

ELDER ON DUTY: Perry Foote

ACOLYTE: Max Conerly

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST: Anait Piloyan

CHANCEL CHOIR

8:30 A.M. USHER: Thomas Chamberlain; **11 A.M. USHERS:** Maralyn Foote, Perry Foote, Esther Kim, Jason Park, Suzie Suhendy

A/V TEAM: Kaylee Bleeker, Alex Conerly, Jelvi Fika, Geoff Spiegel

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in honor of Cretora Biggerstaff from family.

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in honor of Margaret and Howard's 29th wedding anniversary by John Lingg.

TODAY, WE CONTINUE OUR SERMON SERIES on "The Church as..."

10.12.25 - The Church as Family

10.19.25 - The Church as Body

10.26.25 - The Church as Bride

As we look at *The Church as Bride*, the music speaks to this idea in different ways. Some of the pieces include themes of love and weddings. For example, *Salut d'amour*, originally titled *Liebesgruß* (Love's Greeting), was composed as a wedding gift and is a popular, enduring, romantic work. Edward Elgar finished the piece in July 1888, when he was romantically involved with Caroline Alice Roberts, and he called it "Liebesgruss" ("Love's Greeting") because of Miss Roberts' fluency in German. On their engagement she had already presented him with a poem, "The Wind at Dawn," which he set to music, and when he returned home to London on 22 September from a holiday at the house of his friend Dr. Charles Buck in Settle, he gave her *Salut d'Amour* as an engagement present. Other music in today's worship points to Jesus through songs of praise. As we think of the church as bride, Jesus has made us holy and we are redeemed through him. "A Mighty Fortress" is a hymn of praise to God, but also serves as a nod to the Reformation, which is often celebrated on the last Sunday in October.

We are thankful to Linda Weltner and Seoyon Rho for sharing their gifts for the prelude. In addition to worshipping at First Presbyterian Church, Linda is a University of Florida College of Fine Arts alumna. She was a Jacksonville Symphony Masterworks player for many years and continues freelance solo performance, study, and teaching. Seoyun Rho, a dedicated pianist, holds a Doctorate in Piano Performance at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and possesses an impressive musical journey that includes graduating from Oberlin Conservatory and Indiana University with a bachelor's and master's degree, respectively.

Under the guidance of renowned instructors such as Haewon Song and Karen Shaw, Seoyun has performed captivating recitals at prestigious venues, including Yiwon Munhwa Center in Seoul, Korea, and Beck Center in Cleveland, Ohio. She has also enriched her musical skills by participating in international music festivals, including the Euro Arts Music Festival in Leipzig, Germany, and the Gijon International Piano Festival in Gijon, Spain, while benefiting from master classes with distinguished pianists like James Tocco and Wha Kyung Byun. Campbell Graze is our offertory soloist. He is a tenor choral scholar in the Chancel Choir and is working towards his bachelor's in Applied Physiology and Kinesiology at UF.

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.

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

Preschool Director

Lisa Hershkowitz - preschool@1stpc.org

Business Manager

Trudy Bonerba - business@1stpc.org

Operations and Administrative Associate

Laura Montgomery - assistant@1stpc.org

Communications Specialist

Jenny Chamberlain - communications@1stpc.org

Event Sexton and Music Clerk

Andrew Netardus - events@1stpc.org

Head Sexton - Tony Cogdill

Sexton - Margaret Hill

Property Coordinator

John Rayl - png.1stpc@gmail.com

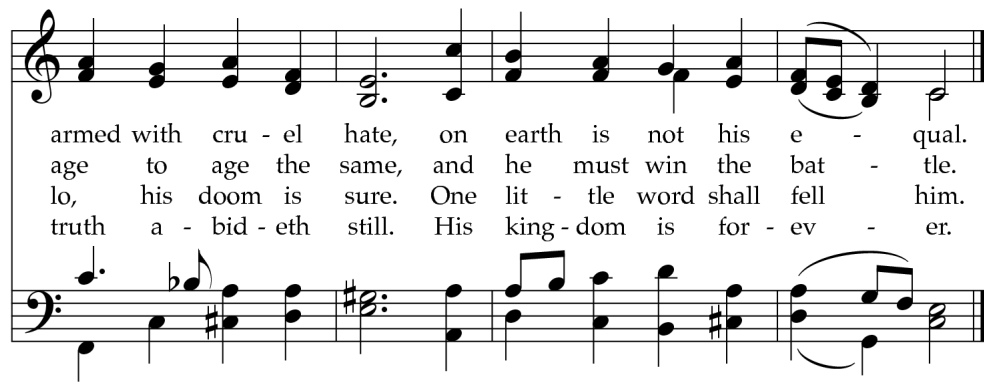
275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
 bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ
 truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and
 Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from
 trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for
 mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's



Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

TEXT: Martin Luther, 1529; trans. Frederick Henry Hedge, 1852
MUSIC: Martin Luther, 1529, alt.

EIN' FESTE BURG
8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 45:10-15 (NRSV)

- ¹⁰ Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear; forget your people and your father's house,
¹¹ and the king will desire your beauty. Since he is your lord, bow to him;
¹² the people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts, the richest of the people
¹³ with all kinds of wealth. The princess is decked in her chamber with gold-woven robes;
¹⁴ in many-colored robes she is led to the king; behind her the virgins, her companions, follow.
¹⁵ With joy and gladness they are led along as they enter the palace of the king.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

John 3:25-30 (NRSV)

²⁵ Now a discussion about purification arose between John's disciples and a Jew. ²⁶ They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him." ²⁷ John answered, "No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, "I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him." ²⁹ He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

299 You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
 2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save,
 3 "Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne!"
 4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right:

and pub - lish a - broad Christ's won - der - ful name.
 he still re - mains nigh; his pres - ence we have.
 Let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son.
 all glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

The name all vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol,
 The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
 The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
 all hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

whose king - dom is glo - rious, who rules o - ver all.
 as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.
 fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
 and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fi - nite love!

This hymn resembles many 18th-century drawings that show parallels between worship on earth and worship in heaven, especially as described in Revelation 7:9–11. This 18th-century tune has had many names; the one used here honors the dynasty of British monarchs, 1714–1901.



The Montreat Worship and Music Conference

Travel with us this summer to NC for Bible study, bells, choir, fellowship, and more at the Montreat Worship and Music Conference. The theme is *Who'll Be a Witness?* Sign up by November 10 to attend Montreat in June. Contact Mitch Rorick at music@1stpc.org to learn more about the conference or to register.

The Annual Montreat Worship and Music Conference Luncheon is today at 12 p.m. in Gordon Hall. A few extra lunches are available for \$10 per person. And don't forget about pies! Ordering is open, and pie making is every Friday and Saturday at 9 a.m.



College Trajectory Pumpkin Carving

Get ready to carve out some fun and unleash your creativity. Bring a pumpkin and join us at Susannah Peddie's home at 7 pm. on Tuesday, October 28. Dinner is included.



LOGOS Fall Festival

Come to LOGOS on Wednesday, October 29 at the regular time or join us at 5:30 in Gordon Hall for the Fall Festival! We will spend time in fun and fellowship with a craft, pumpkin golf, feed the pig, and other favorites (including sliders for dinner)! October Service - We are collecting canned goods to donate to Gainesville Community Ministry at the Festival. Please RSVP to Beverly Vloedman at dvloedman@aol.com.



Doctor Koinonia,

Doctor Koinonia, our support group ministry for young physician faculty, will meet on Thursday, October 30, at 5:30 p.m. in the church library. The theme of this month's gathering is "Encouragement." This particular session will be open to all available senior physician and pastoral guests to join collectively in spontaneous sharing with junior faculty. Contact Serendipity Z. Rinonos at doctorkoinonia@gmail.com for more information.



Volunteer at the Preschool Fall Festival

The preschool is looking for volunteers to help at the Fall Festival on Friday, October 31. Arrive at 9:15 a.m. to run games and give out prizes. Celebrate with our families at this fun event. Contact Lisa Hershkowitz at preschool@1stpc.org with questions or to volunteer.



Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 2 after the 11 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to review the pastor's terms of call and receive the 2025-2026 Budget, and to discuss matters pertaining only to these items.



Concert for a Cause

The Gainesville Community Band, directed by R. Gary Langford, will present a Veterans Day Concert for a Cause in the sanctuary on Sunday, November 9 at 4 p.m. A free-will offering will be taken to support Filter of Hope, sharing clean water & the gospel with those in need. Stay for a spaghetti dinner in Gordon Hall. Dinner is \$5; no charge for veterans.



Buy Your Own Church Yard Sign

Spread the word about the Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve Worship. Sign options are displayed in the Gordon Hall today, and additional details can be found at www.1stpcmusic.org/signs.

Pick-up a calendar page from the ushers or click the link in the weekly email for all this week's ministry events. Children's worship guides are available at all entrances.

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 **now 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 released 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. (see **YA&FM** contact)

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 & lunch and Tuesday Bible study at 7 p.m. Bring a friend! **Contact** the church office with questions at (352) 378-1527.

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

TRUDY BONERBA - business@1stpc.org

Operations and Administrative Associate

LAURA MONTGOMERY - assistant@1stpc.org

Communications Specialist

JENNY CHAMBERLAIN - communications@1stpc.org

Event Sexton and Music Clerk

ANDREW NETARDUS - events@1stpc.org

Property Coordinator

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, October 26, 2025

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Mark 2 - Ross Teigen - Library
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School Class - Luke 1:5-25 - Room 201
- 10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Kids-for-God - Room 217
- 12:00 p.m. College Cafe - Serving Room
- 12:00 p.m. Montreat Luncheon - Gordon Hall

Monday, October 27, 2025

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Trajectory Pumpkin Carving

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

- 3:45 p.m. LOGOS
- 5:30 p.m. LOGOS Fall Festival - Gordon Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Jubilate Ringers - Bell Room 215

Thursday, October 30, 2025

- 6:00 p.m. Carol Ringers - Bell Room 215
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir - Choir Room

Friday, October 31, 2025

- 9:00 a.m. Sweetie Pie Production - Kitchen
- 9:30 a.m. Preschool Fall Festival - Gordon Hall

Saturday, November 1, 2025

- 9:00 a.m. Sweetie Pie Production - Kitchen

Daylight Saving Time Ends - Change your clocks!

Sunday, November 2, 2025

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Mark 3 - Tim Schubert - Library
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School Class - Luke 1:26-38 - Room 201
- 9:30 a.m. Carol Ringers - Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Choral Scholars - Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Cherub, Junior, & Senior Choirs - Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Kids-for-God - Room 217
- 12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. College Cafe - Serving Room