

GATHERING

I listen quietly, Lord, and the morning sounds of creation draw me to you. It is then that I hear your voice, "I am pleased with you, and I know you by name." Sometimes it is difficult to fully receive your pleasure in me, to grasp that you are fond of me, even when I have nothing to show for myself. May I remember that I am yours today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

O Love

E. Hagenberg

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be. O Joy that seeks me through the pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain, that morn shall tearless be.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved, let us love one another,

because love is from God;

everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

But without love, I am nothing. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

* HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

H. Gauntlett

Stanza 1: Solo, Stanza 2: Quartet, **Stanza 3: Congregation and Choir**

Not in that poor and lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high; when like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

What a debt we owe to you, O God. You have given us all things in Christ and yet we withhold from you the honor and glory that are yours. Instead, we pay tribute to empire, plot to entrap the innocent, mock your truth with empty praise, and put your patience to the test. Forgive us, O God, and by your grace restore in us the image of your face; through Christ Jesus our Lord. 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

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

Psalms 22

Chant Paraphrase

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I find no rest. Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned on the praises of Israel. Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me. They open wide their jaws at me, like a slashing and roaring lion. I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of death. Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me; they pierce my hands and my feet.

*All that are able please stand.

Please take a moment to silence all electronic devices for worship. Thank you.

Additional service information is included under TODAY IN WORSHIP to enhance your worship experience.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 22:25-31 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 501

Thanks be to God.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Fred Lundy

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

HYMN OF THE DAY (11 A.M.)

Joyful, Joyful

arr. R. Emerson

Joyful, joyful, Lord, we adore Thee. God of glory, Lord of love. Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, hail Thee as the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light. Oh, fill us with the light of day. Come and join the chorus! The mighty chorus which the morning stars began. The Father of love is reigning over us. He watches over ev'rything, so, we sing: Joyful, joyful, Lord, we adore Thee. God of glory, Lord of love. Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, hail Thee as the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us. Fill us with your light, oh Lord. Fill us. Don't you know we need you now! Let your light shine on us!

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 4:7-21 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 241

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Love

Rev. Mark Hults

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS (11 A.M.)

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

Modimo

arr. M. Barrett

*Modimo re boka wena. Tsothle di entswe ke wena. Wanyamalala umthwalo wezono zami.
God, we praise you. Everything is created by you. He took away my burden (sins).*

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

Please remain seated for the Postlude.

* **POSTLUDE** I Will Rise arr. C. Courtney
and L. Hasseler
Chancel Choir; Andre Valladon, dancer

There's a peace I've come to know though my heart and flesh may fail. There's an anchor for my soul, I can say "It is well." Jesus has overcome and the grave is overwhelmed. The victory is won, He is risen from the dead. And I will rise when He calls my name, no more sorrow, no more pain. I will rise on eagles' wings, before my God fall on my knees and rise. I will rise. There's a day that's drawing near when this darkness breaks to light. And the shadows disappear and my faith shall be my eyes. And I hear the voice of many angels sing, "Worthy is the Lamb!" and I hear the cry of every longing heart, "Worthy is the Lamb!"

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Jonathon Haney, Mark Hults, Fred Lundy

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST: Shiyi Zhu

CHANCEL CHOIR

PERCUSSION: Ryan Hecker

DANCER: Andre Valladon

8:30 USHER: Tom Chamberlain; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Maralyn & Perry Foote

A/V TEAM: Owen Best, Jelvi Fika, Alex Conerly, Zack Conerly

TODAY, WE HEAR THE CHANCEL CHOIR sing music that they will perform at the Florida American Choral Directors Association Fall Conference in Orlando this coming Friday, October 23. Recordings were sent to an anonymous panel of four out-of-state judges, and the Chancel Choir was selected. The theme of the conference is "Music in All Spaces." Wanting to connect with this theme, I thought of how music is important at various times, or places, in life. For Friday's concert, "Once in Royal David's City" and "I Will Rise" bookend the performance. "Once in Royal David's City" is about birth and life and "I Will Rise" about life, death, and heaven. The inner pieces of the concert speak to the various emotions we feel in life (e.g. Love: "O Love," Pain: "Psalm 22," Joy: "Joyful, Joyful," and Praise: "Modimo"). In addition, the pieces were selected to highlight a variety of traditions and styles. Around the world, including at First Presbyterian Church, churches perform the hymn "Once in Royal David's City" for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. "O Love," sung in churches, schools, and even at Montreat this past year, was inspired by the words of blind Scottish minister George Matheson. Plainchant has been around for hundreds of years, and "Psalm 22" is sung in that tradition. "Joyful, Joyful," written by Ludwig van Beethoven many years ago, was arranged for the movie "Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit." "Modimo," God we praise you, highlights another part of the world (South Africa) and language (Sesotho/isiZulu). The contemporary Christian music style is demonstrated through "I Will Rise." These pieces capture music from different periods and places, as well as emotions and events in our lives, and ultimately to Jesus Christ. The main Scripture for today is 1 John 4:7-21. This passage connects with our sending hymn, "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," as well as prelude, "O Love."

ACTION FOR THIS WEEK: What music are you drawn to in times of love, pain, joy, and praise? Consider sharing one of those pieces with a friend.

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.

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

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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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 22:25-31 (NRSV)

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. ²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. ²⁸ For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. ³⁰ Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, ³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 4:7-21 (NRSV)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

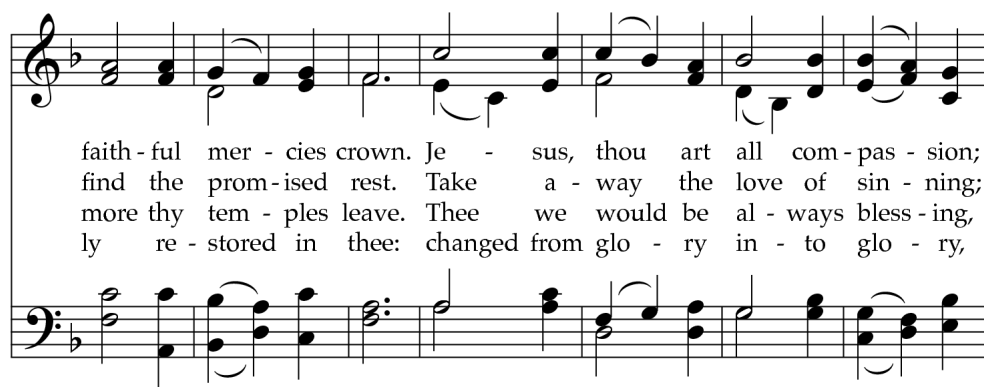
366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



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,

CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT



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.

This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means “delightful”) gives us a foretaste of endless song.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.
 MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831, alt.

HYFRYDOL
 8.7.8.7.D



Welcome to our Newly Ordained & Installed Elders and Deacons

Elder Class of 2028 - Tim Schubert and Jane Smith; Elder Class of 2029 - Jason Berger, Perry Foote, Margaret Lingg, Susannah Peddie, and Steve Walker; Deacon Class of 2028 - Janet Heffner; and Deacon Class of 2029 - Mark Coffey, Kathy Counts, Christine Feigum, and Mary Lou Schubert.

With great love and appreciation, we also offer our thanks to all elders, deacons, trustees, and congregational nominating committee members who have ended their term of service and those who are continuing terms.



Campus to Community Concert

Bringing the talents of UF's student musicians to the Gainesville community: the UF School of Music Students in Recital on Monday, October 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church. Show your support for the next generation of performers as they showcase their musical excellence beyond campus! Keyboard, strings, and woodwinds featured. Free & open to the public. Light refreshments to follow.



Fall Means Sweetie Pies

A Sweetie Pie is a delicious pie lovingly made by volunteers and is a fundraising event for the Montreat Worship and Music Conference. A variety of pies are available frozen raw and order cards can be found in the pews and the upcoming Advent Bugle. Pies are made on Friday and Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to about 1 p.m. and Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. in the church kitchen. Anyone can help; no experience is necessary. Contact Carol Israel with questions, to help, or to order at fpcpie@gmail.com.



Montreat Luncheon

The Annual Montreat Worship and Music Conference Luncheon is Sunday, October 25 at 12 p.m. in Gordon Hall. Please join us as we share memories of Montreat 2026 and thank you for your support. RSVP to (352) 378-1527 or communications@1stpc.org by Sunday, October 18. Cost is \$10 per person or a maximum \$35 per family.



LOGOS Fall Festival

Come to LOGOS on Wednesday, October 28 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)! RSVP by October 20 if you'd like dinner to Beverly Vloedman at dvloedman@aol.com. October Service - Bring canned goods to the Festival to donate to Gainesville Community Ministry.



Volunteer at the Preschool Fall Festival

The preschool is looking for volunteers to help at the Fall Festival on Friday, October 30. 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.

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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ANDREW NETARDUS - events@1stpc.org

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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, October 18, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Matthew 2 - Serendipity Z. R. - Library
- 9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Genesis 15 - Dan Sutton - 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

Ordination & Installation Sunday

Monday, October 19, 2026

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Sweetie Pie Production
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Trinity Ringers - Room 215
- 6:30 p.m. Trajectory College Bible Study - Gordon Hall

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

- 12:00 a.m. Executive Commission - Zoom
- 3:30 p.m. LOGOS - Enter through sanctuary doors or gate on SW 1st Ave
- 6:00 p.m. LOGOS Family Dinner - Bring a Friend Night
- 6:30 p.m. Jubilate Ringers - Room 215

Thursday, October 22, 2026

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

Friday, October 23, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Leaves for Orlando
- 9:00 a.m. Sweetie Pie Production

Saturday, October 24, 2026

- 9:00 a.m. Sweetie Pie Production

Sunday, October 25, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Matthew 3 - Tim Schubert - Library
- 9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Genesis 16 - Rose Anna R. - 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. Montreat Luncheon - Gordon Hall