

GATHERING

Good morning, God. Thank you for the invitation to live faithfully today, walking in your paths, loving my neighbor. The day is new, unmarred by missteps or words misspoken, so I pause in this newness to remember your commandments and to delight in them. Help me to follow you all through this day. Keep my feet from stumbling or wandering down other trails so that I honor you and others in word and deed. In Christ I pray. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

The Holy City

M. Maybrick

Dr. Serendipity Zapanta Rinonos, violin

arr. W. Henley, D. Ziesmer

Last night I lay a sleeping, there came a dream so fair. I stood in old Jerusalem beside the temple there. I heard the children singing, and ever as they sang, methought the voice of angels from Heav'n in answer rang. Jerusalem, Jerusalem! Lift up your gates and sing, Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna to your King! And then methought my dream was changed. The streets no longer rang. Hushed were the glad Hosannas the little children sang. The sun grew dark with mystery, the morn was cold and chill, as the shadow of a cross arose upon a lonely hill. Jerusalem, Jerusalem! Hark how the angels sing, Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna to your King! And once again the scene was changed, new earth there seemed to be. I saw the Holy City beside the tideless sea; the light of God was on its streets, the gates were opened wide, and all who would might enter, and no one was denied. No need of moon or stars by night or sun to shine by day. It was the new Jerusalem that would not pass away. Jerusalem, Jerusalem! Sing, for the night is o'er! Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna forever more!

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Listen! The Lord calls out to us, offering life!

Teach, lead, turn us to your ways, O God.

Walk in the paths of God's commandments with delight.

Teach, lead, turn us to your ways, O God.

With our whole heart, we will turn to you and live!

* HYMN 263

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

CORONATION

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

From evil, even when it masquerades as good, from selfishness and vain desires, from irresponsible behaviors, quarreling, and jealousy, from hurtful disagreements and irreconcilable differences, merciful God, deliver us. Turn us away from the death sin inflicts. Lead us into the abundant life Christ brings. Forgive us, we pray, and teach us to forgive, through Jesus Christ. 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

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 616

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

King of Kings
Payton Francis, soloist

B. Ligertwood, J. Ingram, S.
Ligertwood, arr. D. Galbraith

In the darkness, we were waiting without hope, without light. 'Till from Heaven You came running, there was mercy in Your eyes. To fulfill the law and prophets to a virgin came the Word. From a throne of endless glory, to a cradle in the dirt. Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit, three in one. God of glory, Majesty. Praise forever to the King of Kings. To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost, to redeem the whole creation, You did not despise the cross. For even in your suffering, You saw to the other side. Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus for our sake you died. And the morning that You rose, all of Heaven held its breath. 'Till that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb had conquered death. And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angels stood in awe, for the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored. And the church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame. Now this gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint. By His blood and in His name in His freedom I am free, for the love of Jesus Christ who has resurrected me.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Fred Lundy

(Afterward, children will return to sit with their families.)

* HYMN 370

This Is My Father's World

TERRA BEATA

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 21:9-27 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 259

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Heaven and Earth

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

O Love of God, How Strong and True
Dr. Serendipity Zapanta Rinonos, violin

JERUSALEM, arr. J. Scott,
violin arr. S. Z. Rinonos

O love of God, how strong and true! Eternal and yet ever new, uncomprehended and unbought, beyond all knowledge and all thought! O love of God, how deep and great, far deeper than man's deepest hate; self-fed, self-kindled like the light, changeless, eternal, infinite. O love of God, our shield and stay through all the perils of our way! Eternal love, in you we rest, forever safe, forever blest. We will exalt you, God and King, and we will ever praise your name; we will extol you ev'ry day, and evermore your praise proclaim.

* **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 662** Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies RATISBON

* **BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! T. Fields

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Jonathon Haney, Mark Hults, Fred Lundy, Eileen Stephens

ELDER ON DUTY: Eileen Stephens

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

8:30 USHER: Rose Anna Rutledge; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Roger Bachmann, Maralyn Foote, Perry Foote

A/V TEAM: Kaylee Bleeker, Izu Ezukanma, Jack Harling, Dink Henderson, John Rayl

TODAY'S SERMON, "HEAVEN AND EARTH," focuses primarily on Revelation 21:9-27. The gathering hymn, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!," connects with Revelation 21:24 and the sending hymn, "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies," fits with Revelation 21:23. The *Glory to God* Hymnal has a section called "A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH," which seems appropriate for today's reading. Our hymn of the day, "This Is My Father's World," was also chosen from there. The hymn ends with the words "*earth and heaven be one.*"

We are grateful to Dr. Serendipity Zapanta Rinonos for sharing her musical gifts for worship. As she plays the prelude and offertory on the violin, we invite you to meditate on the included texts that are associated with these pieces. "The Holy City" (M. Maybrick) is fitting for a prelude piece today due to its connection with the Revelation passage. "The New Jerusalem, the Bride of the Lamb" is the heading for our Scriptural passage, and the offertory is based on the hymn tune "JERUSALEM." Our anthem is sung by choral scholar Payton Francis. In this solo we hear the "*glory of God*" that is mentioned in Revelation 21:23.

ACTION FOR THIS WEEK: Spend time out in nature as many days as possible, even if only for a few minutes. Write down one thing that moved you each day. By week's end, you'll have a small "creation journal" of wonder.

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

Lisa Hershkowitz - preschool@1stpc.org

Part-Time Youth Coordinator

Katherine Whisler - 1stpcyouthgnv@gmail.com

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

263 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Descant

4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran - somed from the fall,
 3 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe on this ter - res - trial ball
 4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 to him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

This 18th-century text celebrating the sovereignty of Christ has been through several expansions and contractions before reaching its present form. It is set here to the oldest American hymn tune in continuous use since first published in 1793, which was written for it.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–3, Edward Perronet, 1779, 1780; stanzas 2–3, alt. John Rippon, 1787; stanza 4, John Rippon, 1787
 MUSIC: Oliver Holden, 1793; desc. Michael E. Young, 1979
 Music Desc. © 1979 GIA Publications, Inc.

CORONATION
8.6.8.6.8.6

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 (NRSV)

¹ For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
² a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
³ a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.
⁹ What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. ¹¹ He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹² I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³ moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 21:9-27 (NRSV)

⁹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰ And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites; ¹³ on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ¹⁵ The angel who talked to me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. ¹⁶ The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width; and he measured the city with his rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. ¹⁷ He also measured its wall, one hundred forty-four cubits by human measurement, which the angel was using. ¹⁸ The wall is built of jasper, while the city is pure gold, clear as glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the wall of the city are adorned with every jewel; the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. ²¹ And the twelve gates are twelve pearls, each of the gates is a single pearl, and the street of the city is pure gold, transparent as glass.
²² I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never be shut by day – and there will be no night there. ²⁶ People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

This Is My Father's World 370

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis - tening ears all
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world. O, let me ne'er for - get that

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world. The bat - tle is not done: Je -

rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the won - ders wrought.
 sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, and earth and heaven be one.

When pastor of a Presbyterian church in Lockport, New York, the author of this text referred to his morning walks as "going out to see my Father's world." The tune created for these words is based on an English melody the composer learned from his mother when he was a boy.

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 662

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies; Christ, the true, the on - ly light;
 2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa-nied by thee;
 3 Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of Righ-teous-ness, a - rise; tri-umph o'er the shades of night;
 joy-less is the day's re-turn till thy mer-cy's beams I see;
 fill me, ra - dian - cy di-vine; scat-ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
 till they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
 more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

This well-crafted morning hymn opens by celebrating daylight as an image of Christ, the true Light, then ponders life without light, and culminates in a prayer for inward light. The tune's name honors its German roots: Ratisbon is the former English name for Regensburg.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1740

MUSIC: German folk melody; adapt. Johann Werner, 1815; harm. William Henry Havergal, 1847

RATISBON

7.7.7.7.7



Youth Group Gatherings

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to dinner tomorrow, September 7 at 6 p.m. Meet at McAlister's Deli across from the mall for dinner and fellowship. And mark your calendar for Youth Group at the church on Saturday, September 19. Join us at 5:30 p.m. in Room 211 of the CE building. Questions? Email Katherine Whisler at 1stpcyouthgnv@gmail.com.



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!



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.



Monday Morning Women's Bible Study

All women of the church are invited to a Bible study on the book of Ruth. We will meet twice a month starting on Monday, September 14 at 10:30 a.m. in the parlor. If you are new to the group, please purchase *How to Read the Bible* by David Platt. Call or email Jenny Chamberlain in the church office (communications@1stpc.org) with questions.



Presbyterian Women

FPC Women! SAVE THE DATE: September 20, 2026. Meet after 11 a.m. worship in Gordon Memorial Hall for new information on this season of Presbyterian Women. Stay tuned!

Serve with Us - Usher for 11 a.m. Worship

This minimal effort and maximum impact service opportunity allows us to help folks feel welcome and comfortable as they join with us for Sunday worship. By arriving a little early, handing out worship guides, showing people where the nursery, restrooms, etc. are, and helping collect the offering during the service, your warm, smiling faces remind those with us that they are loved and cared for by our church and by God. Ushers are need for the September and October teams. Contact Laura Montgomery at assistant@1stpc.org or call the church office to fill this need.



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

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, 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 - Dan Sutton - Room 201
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Room 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
Kids-4-God on Break
- 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

- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group - McAlister's Deli by the mall

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Property Committee - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting - Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Trajectory College Bible Study

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

- 3:30 p.m. LOGOS
- 6:00 p.m. LOGOS Family Dinner - Joke Night
- 6:30 p.m. Jubilate Ringers

Thursday, September 10, 2026

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

Friday, September 11, 2026

- 12:30 p.m. Senior Saints - Gordon Hall

Saturday, September 12, 2026

Sunday, September 13, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Job 22-26 - Ross Teigen - Library
- 9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Genesis - 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. Welcome Reception for Katherine Whisler