

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHIMES

(The congregation is asked to pray for the blessing of God upon this service.)

*God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, and the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength. Amen.*

PRELUDE *Improvisation* Hollice S. Watson

INTROIT *God is My Strong Salvation* Austin C. Lovelace  
The Sanctuary Choir

God is my strong salvation: Though hosts encamp against me,  
What foe have I to fear? Firm in the fight I stand;  
In darkness and temptation, What terror can confound me,  
My light, my help is near: With God at my right hand?

†CALL TO WORSHIP from *Psalm 27*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;

**Whom shall I fear?**

The Lord is the strength of my life;

**Of whom shall I be afraid?**

One thing I have asked of the Lord, that I will seek

**To live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,**

To behold the beauty of the Lord,

**And to inquire in his temple.**

**Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;**

**Wait for the Lord!**

†OPENING HYMN, No. 457

*I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art* TOULON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy and merciful God,  
in your presence we confess  
our sinfulness, our shortcomings,  
and our offenses against you.  
You alone know how often we have sinned  
in wandering from your ways,  
in wasting your gifts,  
in forgetting your love.**

**Have mercy on us, O Lord,  
for we are ashamed and sorry  
for all we have done to displease you.  
Forgive our sins,  
and help us to live in your light,  
and walk in your ways,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.**

*(Continue your personal prayer of confession in silence)*

KYRIE ELEISON, No. 572

Congregation and Choir

**Lord, have mercy upon us;  
Christ, have mercy upon us;  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†ACT OF PRAISE *Gloria Patri* MEINEKE

**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, Amen.**

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

Stand, as you are able, and greet one another saying: ***“The peace of Christ be with you.”*** Respond by saying: ***“And also with you.”***  
*(Children are invited to come forward now for A Time with Children.)*

THE WORD

A TIME WITH CHILDREN Lindsey Wells Peery

*Children, ages 2-3 yrs. who will be going to Extended Session and children, ages 4–first grade who will be in The Worship Center, may exit at this time through the right front door, where they will be escorted to the CE Building.*

**Leader:** As you depart from us now, the children of God say:

**Children:** God be with you as you stay.

**Congregation:** God be with you as you go.

**We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, marching,  
we are marching in the light of God.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 25:31-40  
Pew Bible, page 27; large print, page 35  
(Bibles are located in the racks beneath the pews.)

ANTHEM *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* arr. George Shearing  
The Sanctuary Choir

The Spirit sends us forth to serve; We go to be the hands of Christ,  
We go in Jesus' name To scatter joy like seed  
To bring glad tidings to the poor, And, all our days, to cherish life,  
God's favor to proclaim. To do the loving deed.  
We go to comfort those who mourn Then let us go to serve in peace,  
And set the burdened free; The gospel to proclaim.  
Where hope is dim, to share a dream God's Spirit has empowered us;  
And help the blind to see. We go in Jesus' name.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 10:37-42  
Pew Bible, page 10; large print, page 13

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *The Reward of Welcome* Rev. Pendleton Peery

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from *A Declaration of Faith*

**God sends the church into the world.  
God has not taken his people out of the world,  
but has sent them into the world  
to worship him there and serve all humankind.  
We worship God in the world  
by standing before the Lord on behalf of all people.  
Our cries for help and our songs of praise  
are never for ourselves alone.  
Worship is no retreat from the world;  
it is part of our mission.  
We serve humankind  
by discerning what God is doing in the world  
and joining him in his work.  
We risk disagreement and error  
when we try to say what God is doing here and now.  
But we find guidance in God's deeds in the past  
and his promises for the future, as they are witnessed to in  
Scripture.  
We affirm that the Lord is at work,  
especially in events and movements that free people by the  
gospel and advance justice, compassion and peace.**

†HYMN, No. 367 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love* CHEREPONI

COMMISSIONING OF OUR PILGRIMS TO BANGLADESH

**Jesus summons his disciples and giving them authority, sends them out in his name.**

*And so we go, sure that just as Christ sends us on this journey, he meets us where we are sent.*

**Jesus summons his disciples and asks them, for this moment, to leave behind those most precious things to which they cling.**

*And so we go, knowing that we leave behind family and friends, and trusting in those who remain to care for them in our absence.*

**Jesus summons his disciples and, after giving instruction, blesses them saying, “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.”**

*And so we go as bearers of God's love into homes and mobile clinics, on bustling city streets and in village outposts, among Christians, Muslims and Hindus; our eyes and our hearts open to the many we will meet along the way who will embody anew for us Christ's generous hospitality.*

**As you are sent out, may you go surrounded by the prayers of this community of faith that remains your home even as you are far away. May you know that just as we joyfully participate in your sending, so we eagerly await your return and with it the many ways you will witness to us of God's unbounded love.**

COMMISSIONING PRAYER  
AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

Offertory	<i>Improvisation</i>	Hollice S. Watson
†Doxology, No. 592		OLD HUNDREDTH
†Prayer of Dedication		

†HYMN, No. 400 *When We Are Living* SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†RESPONSE *Neighbors* arr. Austin C. Lovelace  
The Sanctuary Choir

Loving puts us on our knees, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
Serving as though we are slaves. Show us how to serve  
This is the way we should live with you. The neighbors we have from you.

†POSTLUDE *Improvisation* Hollice S. Watson

† Worshipers standing if able.

The flowers today are given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of J.C. Shepherd and John, III  
by Mary Shepherd and family.

Elder Reader: Nancy Broyles

Ushers: Anne Jenkins (captain), Oliver Jenkins, Mary Lynn Lunn, William Lunn,  
Laura Williamson, Mark Williamson

Extended Session: Rebecca Nesbitt Prosono

Worship Center Leaders: Kelly Hodgson, Lynda Griffey

Our Mission

*Responding to God's grace and building upon the strength of our Reformed tradition, we, the members of First Presbyterian Church, seek to: Proclaim joyfully the Good News, revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; live as a welcoming and nurturing community of faith through worship, prayer, study and fellowship; and serve others - at home and beyond our community with love, compassion, respect, justice and mercy, in the name of Jesus Christ and after His example. May God empower us by the Holy Spirit to fulfill our call to be God's people.*

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Session Ministry Moderators:

John Frierson	Administration	johnfrierson60@yahoo.com
John Guth	Church Facilities	johnguth@bellsouth.net
Rick LaBorde	Outreach	claborde@wpspump.com
David Oliver	Stewardship	dmo@rcco.com
Lynn Chance	Congregational Life	LWChance@att.net
Robert Folsom	Adult	robertfolsom@lendersoption.net
David Butterfield	Youth	david@msrlaw.com
Rob Ajluni	Children	robajluni@hotmail.com
George Fritze	Evangelism	kinggpf@yahoo.com
Bruce Henderson	Worship	bhenderson@highlandclinic.com
Elton Richey	Communications	ebrlaw@bellsouth.net
Julie Blewer	Staff Committee	jblewer@djslawfirm.com

Church Staff:

Pendleton B. Peery	Pastor
Bryan L. McDowell	Associate Pastor
Sarah Cooper Searight	Associate Pastor
Hollice S. Watson	Organist/Choir Director
Lindsey Wells Peery	Director of Children's Ministries
Cindy K. Natale	Director, First Presbyterian Day School
Rebecca L. Mayfield	PCHAS Director, Child and Family Program
Ginger Collier	Communications Director
Lauren Rogers	Youth Intern
Peggy E. Sartin	Administrative Coordinator
Susan B. Whaley	Church Secretary
Lona L. Lockard	Staff Secretary
George L. Beaner III	Maintenance Coordinator
Jeff A. McKenzie	Sexton
Sherry L. Odom	Housekeeper
Lillie M. Sutton	Housekeeper

WORSHIP NOTES

**WE WELCOME FRIENDS AND VISITORS.** This church is for anyone who wants to be counted as a disciple of Jesus Christ, and who wants to be included in its worship and work. Thank you for signing your name and address on the attendance pad. There is an information center with material about our church and Presbyterianism in the foyer of the Jordan Street entrance to the sanctuary.

**CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN** by Sitters' Registry and church volunteers. Nursery: Room CE-106; Extended Session during 11:00 a.m. worship for ages 2 yrs.—3 yrs.: Room CE-105 and The Worship Center for ages 4 yrs.— first grade: Room CE-113.

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP!** Bibles are available for use during worship; they are found at the end of every pew. We also provide **Worship Bags** designed for children elementary age and younger. The worship bags can be found in the narthex and at the front entrances to the sanctuary. Please return them after the service.



A Service for the Worship of God  
Eleven O'Clock  
June 26, 2011  
Second Sunday After Pentecost



“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me,  
and whoever welcomes me welcomes  
the one who sends me”

Matthew 10:40

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us worship God.