

## 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 "...No darkness at all..." Ned Rorem

INTROIT *Come Down, O Love Divine*  
W. Douglas Francis  
The Summer Men's Choir

Come down, O Love divine, O Comforter, draw near,  
Seek thou this soul of mine, Within my heart appear,  
And visit it with thine own ardor glowing; And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

Come in, O God of Life

**Come among us.**

Come as the wind to move us;

**Come as the light to prove us;**

Come as the night to rest us;

**Come as the storm to test us;**

Come as the sun to warm us;

**Come as the stillness to calm us;**

**Come in, O God of Life, come among us.**

†OPENING HYMN, No. 455 (vv. 1-4) *All Creatures of Our God and King*  
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, deliver us from falling  
into the traps of arrogant men  
and open before our eyes  
a path to peace.**

**We will walk with you  
along the ancient path.  
Grasp our hands firmly, we beg you, in yours,  
until your wound is our wound,  
opened by the nail that fixed you to the cross.**

**Hear now our confession  
for the times we have failed  
to be a part of your peace.**

*(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

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE—Verse 5 of hymn 455

**And everyone of tender heart,  
Forgiving others, take your part.  
O sing ye! Alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and cast on God your care!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### 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 Betty Henderson  
*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 14:13-21  
Pew Bible, page 15; large print, page 19  
(Bibles are located in the racks beneath the pews.)

ANTHEM *Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown* Scottish melody  
Text: Charles Wesley

The Summer Men's Choir

Come, O thou Traveler unknown, Whom still I hold, but cannot see! My company before is gone, And I am left alone with thee. With thee all night I mean to stay, And wrestle till the break of day. I need not tell thee who I am, My misery and sin declare; Thyself hast called me by my name, Look on thy hands and read it there. But who, I ask thee, who art thou? Tell me thy name, and tell me now.	Yield to me now, for I am weak, But confident in self-despair! Speak to my heart, in blessing speak, Be conquered by my instant prayer: Speak, or thou never hence shalt move, And tell me if thy name is Love. 'Tis Love! 'tis Love! thou diedst for me, I hear thy whisper in my heart. The morning breaks, the shadows flee, Pure, Universal Love thou art: To me, to all, thy mercies move; Thy nature and thy name is Love.
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SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 32:22-31  
Pew Bible, page 29; large print, page 37

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*The Blessing of Struggle*

Rev. Pendleton Peery

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Apostles' Creed

**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; 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.**

†HYMN, No. 280 *Amazing Grace* AMAZING GRACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

Offertory *"There Is a Spirit That Delights to Do No Evil..."*

Ned Rorem

†Doxology, No. 592 OLD HUNDREDTH

†Prayer of Dedication

†HYMN, No. 361 *How Firm a Foundation* FOUNDATION

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†RESPONSE *Go in Peace* Hollice Smith Watson

The Summer Men's Choir

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Amen.

†POSTLUDE *Voluntary on PROMISED LAND* Sam Batt Owens

†Worshippers standing if able.

The flowers today are given to the glory of God,  
with thanks for all the VBS volunteers  
by Claudia and David Oliver.  
The flowers in the Narthex are given to the glory of God  
from the wedding of  
Kelly Updegraff and Garrett Staples.

Elder Reader: David Oliver

Ushers: Robin Jones, Mary Anne Selber, Lisa Schrott, Julie Roper, Barb Deane, Annette Simmons

Extended Session: Sharon Cage, April Carberry

Worship Center Leaders: Lindsey Peery, Brenda Nims

**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	eblaw@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
Ginger Collier	Communications Director
Lauren Rogers	Youth Intern
Peggy E. Sartin	Administrative Coordinator
Susan B. Whaley	Church Secretary
Lona L. Lockard	Staff Secretary
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.

**WE ARE APPRECIATIVE** to our Summer Men's Choir for "manning" the choir loft for the month of July! Next week begins Summer Women's Choir for the month of August, and we're expecting more joyful sounds to enhance our worship! For more information on rehearsals and what to expect, see the announcement in the bulletin Link.

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:** We continue to be grateful for the congregation's financial support of our church's mission and ministry. Please keep your pledges to the annual budget up to date, especially in the summer months. Thank you!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
SHREVEPORT

A Service for the Worship of God  
Eleven O'Clock  
July 31, 2011  
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



*Jacob Wrestles - Marc Chagall (1887 - 1985)*

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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.*

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**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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