

WORSHIP



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH of
RICHARDSON

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Responding to God's love and grace, we WORSHIP with joy, NURTURE with faith, and SERVE others with love.

At First Presbyterian Church of Richardson, we believe that God's love is for everyone—without exception. We welcome all people to worship, serve, and grow with us, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, marital status, or economic circumstance. We affirm the worth and dignity of every person as a beloved child of God, created in God's image. As a church rooted in God's grace, we seek to live with open hearts and open minds. We commit to being a safe and affirming space for all, especially those who have been hurt or excluded by the church in the past. In our worship, our leadership, our fellowship, and our service—we welcome you. We see you. We honor your full humanity. You are welcome here. You are not alone. You are loved.

We Gather Around the Word

WELCOME

Rev. Sarah Chancellor-Watson

OPENING VOLUNTARY

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Russell Schulz-Widmar

Terry Metzger, Organ

*CALL TO WORSHIP | *Responsively*

Betsy Gust, Liturgist

from Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

Bless God's holy name.

God forgives. God heals. God transforms with steadfast love.

Bless God's holy name.

*OPENING HYMN | #649 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION | *Unison*

Rev. Alice Hernandez

**Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings,
you desire to gather your children.**

But division and disagreement plague us.

We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen.

We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it.

Forgive us, Holy God.

Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship,

and be transformed through your steadfast love. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS | *Responsively*

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

Anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed

and restored to God's path of righteousness. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI | #581 “Glory Be to the Father”

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.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

TIME FOR TINY THEOLOGIANS

Pastor Alice

Children of all ages are welcome to join us up front for a brief children's lesson. Children between the ages of 0-kindergarten are then welcome to go to the nursery following the lesson, or return to their seats.

We Proclaim the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 14:1-12

NRSV NT Pg. 163

Matthew 18:21-35

NRSV NT Pg. 20

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Sarah Chancellor-Watson

We Respond to the Word

*HYMN OF RESPONSE | #435 "There's A Wideness in God's Mercy"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | *Unison*

from Romans 8

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *and* THE LORD'S PRAYER | *Unison*

**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.**

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Pepper Choplin

The Sanctuary Choir, Amanda Hollis, Director

*Lord, have a-mercy on my brother. Lord, have a-mercy on my sister.
While I'm a-prayin' down on my knees, Lord have a-mercy on me.*

*When we gather 'round a brother who is lyin' on a bed of pain
We're praying' Lord, won't You lift him up and take his burden away.
For the children caring for their parents, for the mother worryin' 'bout her child
I'm prayin', Lord, won't You Lift them up and give them peace for a while.
Lord, have mercy on the children, Lord have mercy on the parents.
Lord, I'm a-prayin' for all of these, Lord have a-mercy on me.*

*When I'm a-callin' Lord, Lord, I won't be callin in vain.
When the waters of trouble are risin' up, I'm callin' your name!
Hear me prayin' now, O Lord, please, Lord, have mercy on me.*

*DOXOLOGY | #606 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

We Are Sent Out to Bear the Word in the World

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN | #822 “When We Are Living (Pues si vivimos)”

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“Passacaglia and Pifaro on NETTLETON”

William Allen Pasch

Terry Metzger, Organ

Liturgy Written By Terri McDowell Ott, Presbyterian Outlook, 2026



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH of
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established 1870

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BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27