

The Service of Worship
September 7, 2025
13th Sunday after Pentecost

Chimes

Prelude

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken
Marsha Davis, Elsie Fetzer, Chancel Choir

Mary McDonald

Greeting and Announcements

Introit

With a Voice of Singing
Chancel Choir

Martin Shaw

Today's Introit is dedicated in honor of Nancy Mann. May her memory be a blessing.

***Call to Worship and Opening Prayer** (responsive)

In times when we might be shaken in mind or alarmed,
either by spirit or by word or by letter,

let us stand firm and hold fast to the traditions of our faith.

For this purpose God called you through the gospel,
so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Maker loved us
and through grace gives us courage and good hope.**

May God comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

Let us pray:

Almighty God,

we step back from the things that alarm and discourage us
to give you praise.

We take in the bigger picture, and we remember your goodness.

Meet us here today, and by your Spirit show us your grace and glory,
that we would be uplifted and encouraged today
and in the days to come.

Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art (vv. 1, 3 & 5)

#624

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (unison)

We read the news and we are afraid.

We check our phones and we are overwhelmed.

We listen to friends and loved ones and we don't know how to help.

Poverty, war, climate disaster...

Anger, resentment, failure, jealousy...

Cancer, anxiety, loneliness...

There is brokenness everywhere,

and sometimes it feels like too much,

and sometimes we want to give up.

Forgive us when we nurture despair

in ourselves and in each other.

Free us to live in courage and with hope.

Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

...May you be made strong with all the strength
that comes from his glorious power,
so that you may have all endurance and patience,
joyfully giving thanks to God,
who has enabled you to share in the inheritance
of the saints in the light.

We are equipped for every good work.

**God has rescued us from the power of darkness
and transferred us into the kingdom of God's beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption,
the forgiveness of sins.**

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***The Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

***Response**

Gloria Patri

**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.**

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

God of mercy, you promised
never to break your covenant with us.

**Amid all the changing words of our generation,
speak your eternal Word that does not change.
Then may we respond to your gracious promises
with faithful and obedient lives;
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Hold On to the Rock
Chancel Choir

Pepper Choplin

Scripture Reading

Psalm 40:1-3a

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hold On... to the Enduring Presence of God

Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon

***Hymn of Response**

Here in This Place (vv. 1 & 2)

#401

Blessing of the Backpacks

Hymn of Response

Here in This Place (vv. 3 & 4)

#401

The Lord's Supper

INVITATION

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Behold the Lamb
Marsha Davis and Darla Korrey Gertner

Gettys and Townsend

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of all creation,
you meet us in our ordinary lives,
in ordinary elements,
and by your Spirit
you give us courage and hope,
inspiring and equipping us to press on.

**May the nourishment and encouragement
we receive here
sustain us in faith and love.
Amen.**

Giving of Ourselves and Our Offerings

***The Doxology**

**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.**

***Prayer Dedication** (responsive)

Generous God,
you always equip us to do what you call us to do.
**Let us not grow weary in doing what is right,
for we will reap at harvest time,
if we do not give up.**

So then, whenever we have an opportunity,
O Lord, let us work for the good of all.

**Receive the offerings of our life and labor
to bless people with comfort and courage,
faith and love,**
through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

When in Our Music God Is Glorified (vv. 1, 2, 4 & 5)

#641

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken
Chancel Choir

Mary McDonald

***Chimes**

Postlude

I Stand Amazed in the Presence
Elsie Fetzer

arr. Marilyn Arison

**Indicates those who are able, please stand.*

Worship Notes – Sources Used in Today’s Liturgy

Call to Worship: adapted from 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17

Declaration of Forgiveness: adapted from Colossians 1:11-14; 2 Timothy 3:17

Prayer for Illumination: *Book of Common Worship*

Prayer of Dedication: Galatians 6:9

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Prayer Concerns September 7, 2025

Military Personnel

Luke Brigham (Randy & Terry's son)
Thomas Gage Snyder (Kim Schlup's son)

Presbytery of Plains & Peaks

Inquirers and Candidates under Presbytery care

Those with Special Needs or Concerns

Florence Annan	Debby Korrey (Delinda's & Darla's sister)
Grace Ann (Connie Clark's relative)	Delinda Korrey McDowell
David Balabanis Family	Susan Kozik (former sister-in-law of Mike Tyson)
Joe Baran (in-law of Ted & Penny Propst)	Jomari Lechtman
Jackie Barton and Family	Ann Leh and Family
Sharon Bennett (Neblett's son-in-law's mother)	Aline Marquez (friend of Becky Cranwell)
Tye Bennett (Neblett's grandson)	Rose Neblett
Clark Bernhardt	Dirk Nye and Regine Bendelow (Jackie Barton's step-father & mother)
Norm Blackburn	Mari Paradise (Jim Neblett's sister)
Brenda Boeff	Jeni Porter (In-law of Blackburns)
Randy Brigham	David Prince (Tanna's brother)
Leah Burt (friend of Judy Rounph)	Emma Rich (Granddaughter of Gary & Kay Rich)
CEDEPCA (Protestant Ministry in Guatemala)	Sergio Rosado (family friend of Jackie Reynolds)
Cooperating Ministry	Cadie, Hailey, and Austen Rose (Jason Rose family)
Sally Craig (friend of Jackie Reynolds)	Agnes Rundus
Jeanne Crouch & Family	Betty Scharf
Deb Daughtery (sister of Ken McDowell)	Linda Schoyer (Sister of Connie Sue Clark)
Cierra Davis (friend of Becky Cranwell)	John Seffens (friend of Mike Tyson)
Dave & Marsha Davis	Steven Shinn (friend of Jim Leh)
Sarah Davis	Darrell Smith and family
Andrew DeSouza (Michelle Hawkins' son)	Montelle Smith
Gary Espinosa (Arden Fennell's family)	Becky Stieb, Justin & Torin (friends of Michelle Hawkins)
Family Resource Center	Charlie & Roseanne Thompson (friends of Nebletts)
Carolee Goldsmith (mother of Brandon Eaton)	Sharon Treacy (mother of Laura Guenzi)
Meredith Goodwin (friend of Propsts)	Mike Tyson
Mike Hawkins (Michelle Hawkins' brother)	Amy & Byron Uhrich (Jill Vollmer's parents)
Abby Henry & family (friend of Jackie Barton)	Under the Umbrella
Highlands Camp	Robert Vance (Michelle White's dad)
Sonja Holden (friend of Arden Fennell)	Don and Virginia Werner (Parents of Mike Werner)
Chris Jutz	Jeff Weskamp
Josh Jutz & Kaylee	Jean Williamson
Robert Koehler (friend of Laura Guenzi)	

Prayer List Updates:

Do you have an update on anyone listed on our church prayer list? We'd love to hear the good news of recovery, healing, and answered prayer. If you have a joy to report, let us know!

Announcements—September 7, 2025

We invite you to join us in our work and worship at First Presbyterian Church.

At a Glance

September 7	10:30	Worship Service with Communion
	11:30	Fellowship Coffee
September 8	12:00	Finance Committee Meeting
September 11	5:30	Bell Choir
	6:30	Chancel Choir
September 14	10:30	Worship Service
	11:30	Fellowship Coffee with Birthday Celebration and Thiele reception

Church Office hours: Mon/Wed/Fri: 9:00 am—Noon; and Tues/Thurs: 1:00-4:00 pm

Food Pantry Items: Throughout the month of September, we are collecting Canvas Wal-Mart bags and Canned Chili Beans (with pop-top preferred). You may bring your donations to the church and put them under the table outside the church office, or in the box in the elevator vestibule.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God in memory of Marilyn Ross by her family and friends.

On **September 14** we will have a reception during the Fellowship Coffee for Bart and Barb Thiele to wish them well as they move to Arizona.

Women's Book Study Begins Thursday September 18, 2025: *Anxious for Nothing, Finding Calm in a Chaotic World* by Max Lucado is the book for this 9 month book study. The meetings are every third Thursday of the month starting at 1:30pm and ending at 3:00 pm. The last meeting is June 18. The sessions are held in the Fellowship Hall of the church. A sign-up sheet and books are available in the foyer. Max Lucado is America's bestselling inspirational author and currently serves as a Teaching Minister at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio. *Anxious for Nothing* is an easy read, feel good book that has its focus on Philippians 4: 4-8 which is used as a guide to promote actions that stabilize our soul in the Sovereignty of God. Women of all ages are welcome, desired, and wanted!

Tithes & Offerings: Thank you... your support makes mission & ministry possible. Donate online at tinyurl.com/FPCPayPal or tinyurl.com/FPCSterlingGive



First Presbyterian Church

130 South 4th Street | Sterling, CO 80751 | 970-522-2708
www.firstpressterling.org | Radio Broadcast AM—1230

Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon
Music Coordinator/Organist	Elsie Fetzer
Choir Director	Darla Korrey Gertner
Bell Choir Director	Lindsey Jackson
Office Administrator	Rashell Fritzler
Bookkeeper	Karlee Manuello
Property Manager	Janet Kloberdanz

Serving Today

Liturgists	Michelle D. Witherspoon, preacher Connie Sue Clark, liturgist
Acolyte/Bible-Bearer	Tanna Prince, Connie Ham
Ushers	Carrie Lovenburg, Alex Hicks
AV Techs	Dean Boeff (Sound), Callie Jackson (Slides)
Count Offering	Connie Ham
Fellowship Coffee	Nominating Committee
Bulletin Delivery	Sue Weingardt



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