

The Service of Worship
October 19, 2025
19th Sunday after Pentecost

Chimes

Prelude

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Marsha Davis and Darla Korrey Gertner

arr. Marianne Kim

Greeting and Announcements

Introit

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
Chancel Choir

Helen H. Lemmel

***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**

God, the Sculptor of the Mountains (vv. 1, 2 & 4)

#5

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (responsive)

We like to pretend that we are self-sufficient,
and we want to believe in the easy fix:
“Just buy this product or follow these rules.”
There are “life hacks” that promise to bring ease,
and we want to believe it’s that easy.
But, today, here, let’s be honest.

Let’s tell the whole truth.

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

Luke 18: 1-8

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Lord Most High (with Immortal, Invisible)
Chancel Choir

Heather Sorenson

Scripture Reading

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hold On... to Truth

Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon

***Hymn of Response**

I Need Thee Every Hour

#735

Welcome of New Members

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ,
for we are all one in him. Amen.**

Prayers of the People and 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.**

Stewardship Story

Shaun Wilson
HOPE House

Giving of Ourselves and Our Offerings—A Moment for Great Reflection

I Surrender All
Marsha Davis and Darla Korrey Gertner

arr. Joseph Linn

***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**

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (verse 3)

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

Hold On to the Rock
Chancel Choir

Pepper Choplin

***Chimes**

Postlude

Hold On to Me
Marsh Davis

Lauren Daigle

**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 October 19, 2025

Military Personnel

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

Presbytery of Plains & Peaks

Presbytery Meeting 10/23/2025

Those with Special Needs or Concerns

Grace Ann (Connie Clark's relative)
David Balabanis Family
Joe Baran (in-law of Ted & Penny Propst)
Jackie Barton and Family
Sharon Bennett (Neblett's son-in-law's mother)
Tye Bennett (Neblett's grandson)
Clark Bernhardt
Norm Blackburn
Brenda Boeff
Randy Brigham
Leah Burt (friend of Judy Roumph)
CEDEPCA (Protestant Ministry in Guatemala)
Cooperating Ministry
Sally Craig (friend of Jackie Reynolds)
Jeanne Crouch & Family
Deb Daughtery (sister of Ken McDowell)
Cierra Davis (friend of Becky Cranwell)
Dave & Marsha Davis
Sarah Davis
Andrew DeSouza (Michelle Hawkins' son)
Gary Espinosa (Arden Fennell's family)
Family Resource Center
Carolee Goldsmith (mother of Brandon Eaton)
Meredith Goodwin (friend of Propsts)
Mike Hawkins (Michelle Hawkins' brother)
Abby Henry & family (friend of Jackie Barton)
Highlands Camp
Sonja Holden (friend of Arden Fennell)
Chris Jutz
Josh Jutz & Kaylee
Robert Koehler (friend of Laura Guenzi)
Debby Korrey (Delinda's & Darla's sister)

Delinda Korrey McDowell
Susan Kozik (former sister-in-law of Mike Tyson)
Ann Leh and Family
Aline Marquez (friend of Becky Cranwell)
Rose Neblett
Dirk Nye and Regine Bendelow (Jackie Barton's
step-father & mother)
Mari Paradise (Jim Neblett's sister)
Jeni Porter (In-law of Blackburns)
David Prince (Tanna's brother)
Emma Rich (Granddaughter of Gary & Kay Rich)
Regina Riggle (Niece of Jackie Reynolds)
Cadie, Hailey, and Austen Rose (Jason Rose family)
Betty Scharf
Linda Schoyer (Sister of Connie Sue Clark)
John Seffens (friend of Mike Tyson)
Steven Shinn (friend of Jim Leh)
Darrell Smith and family
Montelle Smith
Becky Stieb, Justin & Torin (friends of Michelle Hawkins)
Charlie & Roseanne Thompson (friends of Nebletts)
Sharon Treacy (mother of Laura Guenzi)
Mike Tyson
Amy & Byron Uhrich (Jill Vollmer's parents)
Under the Umbrella
Robert Vance (Michelle White's dad)
Don and Virginia Werner (Parents of Mike Werner)
Laurie Weskamp Wagner (Jeff's sister)
Jeff Weskamp
Jean Williamson

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—October 19, 2025

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

At a Glance

October 19	10:30	Worship Service
	11:30	Fellowship Lunch & Congregational Meeting
October 20		Finance Committee Meeting
October 21	5:00	Zumba
	6:00	Session
October 23	4:30	Zumba
	5:30	Bell Choir
	6:30	Chancel Choir
October 24	10:30	Worship Service
	11:30	Fellowship Coffee

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 October, we are collecting Cake Mixes and Frosting. 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.

Called Congregational Meeting to elect officers: October 19, following worship

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 Klobberdanz

Serving Today

Liturgists	Michelle D. Witherspoon, preacher Pam Trimble, liturgist
Acolyte/Bible-Bearer	Leroy Morrissey, Harry Peterson
Ushers	Jill Vollmer, Laura Guenzi
AV Techs	Justin Cranwell (Sound), Jeff Christenson (Slides)
Count Offering	Linda Meisner
Fellowship Coffee	Fellowship Committee
Bulletin Delivery	Michelle Hawkins



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