



ON PURPOSE

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Traditional Worship

8:15 am Sanctuary

**Please stand or lift your heart*

WELCOME

Rev. Sarah Slack



Please use either this QR code or a card in the pew for attendance and prayer requests that you would like shared with staff. You may place cards in the offering plate.

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE

Jesus, Lover of My Soul
arr. Michael Machemer
Dr. Jenny Anderson, piano

*HYMN No. 400

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
NETTLETON

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: We come here today with our stories, pasts that have shaped us.

***ALL:* Our stories shape us, but our past mistakes do not define us.**

LEADER: In worship, we open ourselves to God's work within us today.

***ALL:* We come ready to be molded into who we might become. Let us worship the one who draws us, always, into new life.**

*GLORIA PATRI No. 70

Glory Be to the Father
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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Brye Rop
Acts 9:1-19 (NRSV)

1 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest **2** and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. **3** Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. **4** He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" **5** He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. **6** But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." **7** The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. **8** Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. **9** For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. **10** Now there was a disciple

in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." **11** The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, **12** and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." **13** But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; **14** and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." **15** But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; **16** I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." **17** So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." **18** And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, **19** and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

John 21:15-19 (NRSV)

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." **16** A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." **17** He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. **18** Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." **19** (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

LEADER: All scripture is inspired by God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

On Purpose: Who Am I?
Rev. Slack

HANDBELL VOLUNTARY

Celebrate with Ringing
Michael Mazzatenta
Evensong Handbells

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881**

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 Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;

the third day he arose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at 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 Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

TIME OF PRAYER

OFFERING MOMENT

OFFERTORY

Nearer, My God to Thee
arr. Charles Szczepanek

***DOXOLOGY No. 94** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts.
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts.
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

***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
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

***HYMN No. 398**

Jesus Calls Us
GALILEE

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing
arr. Steven Wenté

Traditional Worship

10:30 am Sanctuary

**Please stand or lift your heart*

WELCOME

Rev. Sarah Slack



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OPENING PRAYER

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Piper Tillman, acolyte
Caroline Ritchey, acolyte

PRELUDE

Celebrate with Ringing
Michael Mazzatenta
Evensong Handbells; Dr. Jenny Anderson, conductor

INTROIT

Be Thou My Vision
Irish melody; harm. Carlton Young
Chancel Choir; Dr. Dwight Dockery, conductor

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

*HYMN No. 400

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
NETTLETON

*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: We come here today with our stories, pasts that
have shaped us.

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within us today.

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always, into new life.***

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world without end. Amen. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF KINDERGARTEN AND THIRD GRADE BIBLES

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO KIDS OWN WORSHIP

Children **age 3 through 1st grade** may follow a member of our children's ministry team to Kids Own Worship. For new 1st Kids children, please complete the child information card in the pew and send with your child to KOW to help us better serve your child. Please meet them on the lower level at the end of the worship service.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of his glory and grace.

SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Brye Rop
Acts 9:1-19 (NRSV)

1 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest **2** and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. **3** Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. **4** He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" **5** He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. **6** But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." **7** The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. **8** Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. **9** For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. **10** Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." **11** The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, **12** and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." **13** But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; **14** and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." **15** But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; **16** I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." **17** So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." **18** And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, **19** and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

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ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

On Purpose: Who Am I?
Rev. Slack

ANTHEM

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
Sebastian Temple, arr. Jane Holstein

WELCOMING NEW MEMBER

We welcome new member Debbie Cooper as she joins today as a professing member.

TIME OF PRAYER**OFFERING MOMENT****OFFERTORY**

Jesus, Lover of My Soul
arr. Michael Machemer

***DOXOLOGY No. 94** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts.
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts.
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**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
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

***HYMN No. 398**

Jesus Calls Us
GALILEE

BENEDICTION**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Be Thou My Vision
Irish melody; harm. Carlton Young

Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***POSTLUDE**

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
arr. Terry D. Wilson

Contemporary Worship

10:30 am | Asbury Hall

WELCOME MUSIC

Worship Band

Hello, My Name Is
Matthew West

WELCOME

Ralph Jeffers



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WORSHIP

Let It Be Jesus
We the Kingdom

Who You Say I Am
Hillsong Worship

No Longer Slaves
I Am They

DISMISSAL TO KIDS OWN WORSHIP

Children **age 3 through 1st grade** may follow a member of our children's ministry team to Kids Own Worship. For new 1st Kids children, please complete the child information card and send with them to KOW to help us better serve your child. Please meet them on the lower level following the worship service.

OFFERING

Rev. Teanna Black

TIME OF PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:1-19; John 21:15-19

SERMON

On Purpose: Who Am I?
Rev. Black

CLOSING WORSHIP

Made For More
Josh Baldwin

BENEDICTION



Overnight Event at Church
September 25, 2026
\$15 per child
(Space is limited)

Reserve a spot for your kids at 1stchurch.org/camp
Registration ends **TODAY**.

NOW EVERY SUNDAY!

**BARRIER FREE
WORSHIP**



1:00 pm - Lunch & Fellowship
2:00 pm - Worship



This special time of worship is designed for people living with dementia, cognitive challenges or various expressions of neurodivergence. During this simple service there will be a special emphasis placed on the atmosphere, the music, and prioritizing how people feel in this time and space.

1stchurch.org/sycamore-tree



**DONATE ITEMS FOR THE
TRUNK-OR-TREAT!**

- INDIVIDUALLY PACKAGED CANDY
- FRUIT GUMMIES
- PIRATE'S BOOTY PUFFS SNACK
- INDIVIDUALLY PACKED GOLDFISH SNACK BAGS



Bin located outside of the church office

SIGN UP TO SERVE!

- TRUNK OR TREAT STATIONS
- HELP WITH INFLATABLES
- ASSIST WITH GAMES
- SET UP
- CLEAN UP
- AND MORE ...

FALL festival

**OCTOBER 25TH
4:00 TO 6:00 PM**



1stchurch.org/fall-festival

**grace
FOR ALL**

**A PODCAST PRODUCED
BY THE PEOPLE OF**



Available at:
1stchurch.org/podcasts, the **1st Church YouTube Channel**,
and most everywhere you get your podcasts



1STCHURCH.ORG

804 Montvale Station Road
Maryville, TN 37803
865-982-1273