

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
October 27, 2024

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA>

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation 



Sermon based upon Mark 10:46-52 and Psalm 126

Our Mission

"Share God's love, embrace our neighbors, nurture each other."

*The Service for the Lord's Day
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost*

PRELUDE

I Am the Alpha and the Omega

Michael D. Costello

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Leader: With nature in its power and beauty, with rain and wind and sunshine,
with the ancient rocks and the budding flowers,

People: We gather in praise of God.

Leader: With believers and seekers the whole world wide, with people in every land,
and speakers of every language,

People: We gather in praise of God.

Leader: With the angels and saints in heaven, and with all who have worshipped
in this place,

People: We gather in praise of God.

Leader: With Jesus who promised his presence and the Spirit who showers her blessings,

People: We gather in praise of God.

Leader: Here let heaven and earth embrace;

People: Here may God's people find home.

*OPENING HYMN

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

GTG#727

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Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor

Trusting in God's forgiveness, let us in silence confess our failings and acknowledge our part in the pain of the world.

(silence)

Leader: Eternal Maker of the endless heavens,
lowly Christ, befriender of the changing earth,
Holy Spirit, wind over the flowing waters,
in earth, sea and sky you are ever present.

**People: O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns, soul within all souls,
in everything we touch, in everyone we meet, you are there,
and we give you thanks.**

Leader: But where we have not touched but trampled you in creation,
where we have not honored but avoided you in one another,
where we have not received but rejected your goodness,
forgive us, and hear our plea for your pardon.

Silent prayers of confession may be offered.

CONFESSIOAL RESPONSE

"Kyrie"

PH#572

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor

Leader: Know that God is good, and that to those who are truly sorry God forgives what is past and enables us to begin again.

Leader: Once we were no people, now we are God's people.

People: Once we were beyond God's mercy; now that mercy has been given to us.

Leader: So let us live as those who treasure God's costly generosity, by safeguarding God's earth, delighting in its people, and loving our Maker to whom be glory for ever.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus be with you all.

People: And also with you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*Gloria Patri*) PH#579

**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 Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading: Liturgist

Psalm 126 (OT pg.572)

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture, and other wellsprings of nourishment.

For the Word of God among us. For the Word of God within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES Pastor

CHORAL ANTHEM *Nearer Still Nearer* Emily Lund
Chancel Choir

Second Reading: Pastor

Mark 10:46-52 (NT pg.47)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Dr. Bea Miller

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Pastor

We believe in God, who conceived all that is created, God, who fathers and mothers all people.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's firstborn and only Lord of the earth.

He came from both heaven and the womb of the virgin Mary; he lived in solidarity with humankind, befriending, teaching, healing and restoring; he was denied and betrayed by his friends; and was done to death by the state.

He descended to the place of oblivion, rose to life again on the third day, and ascended to heaven where he sits at God's right hand. This same Jesus will come again in glory to judge the living and dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, whose dynamic presence can make all things new. We believe in the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:
in God I trust; in God I trust. (repeat 5 times)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor

Holy God, who, in Jesus, touched the earth, admiring its beauty and blessing its people, we honor you for the gift of life and all the gifts that life brings us: food, shelter, company, the experiences that make us think, the people that bring out the best in us.

Hear our prayers for the places in this world where beauty has turned to ugliness, food has been replaced by famine, friendship has been forgotten and fear, hostility and hopelessness have the upper hand.

(a time for silent prayer)

God, in your mercy,
Bring healing, bring peace.

Hear our prayers for people who cannot pray because of pain, loss or worry; and for those who will not love themselves and so cannot love their neighbor.

(a time for silent prayer)

God, in your mercy,
Bring healing, bring peace.

Hear our prayers for ourselves – our private yearnings, our secret hopes and any doubt, jealousy or anger to which we hold too tightly.

(a time for silent prayer)

God, in your mercy,
Bring healing, bring peace.

And hear us as we, pray the words Jesus prayed:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name; your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil; for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Liturgist

Call to Offering

Offertory

***The Doxology**

PH#592

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. ~Amen~

Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist

***SENDING HYMN**

Bless the Lord

GTG#544

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Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life. (repeat 5 times)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Pastor

Leader: May the everlasting God shield you wherever you go.

And the blessing of God be upon you

People: the blessing of the Giver of life.

Leader: The blessing of God be upon you

People: the blessing of the Christ of love.

Leader: The blessing of God be upon you

People: the blessing of the Spirit of peace.

Leader: The blessing of the Trinity be upon you now and evermore. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Father, Give Thy Benediction

POSTLUDE

The God of Abraham Praise

Gordon Young

*Please stand as you are able

Welcome to our visitors today!

We are glad you are here and we hope you will join us for worship again. If you are interested in joining our church, there are three ways you may do so. They are letter of transfer from your church of previous membership, reaffirmation of faith if you have already been baptized; and baptism and affirmation of faith if you have not been baptized. If you are interested in joining, please ask our pastor, or one of our elders, for more details.

Need help hearing the service? Receivers connected to the sound system are available in the Narthex. Just ask an usher.

Please use the friendship register located in the pew to indicate your presence in worship. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please include your address, telephone number, and e-mail.

Let the children come to me: Children & Youth of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to actively participate in worship. For those desiring supportive materials, "sermon notes" for young children through older youth are available in the narthex. Clipboards and crayons are also available to take to your pew. Please return them to the narthex after the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a covered dish lunch today after the worship service with a follow up regarding the congregational identity.

2¢'s a Meal Offering is today. We ask members to prayerfully contribute a few cents to help alleviate hunger and poverty around the world. Envelopes are provided in the pews. Thanks for your offering.

Cooks Who Care is back! If you are passionate about cooking and giving back to your community, join the Cooks Who Care program. There will be an organizational **meeting Monday, October 28th at 11:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please call or text Susan Pilson (276-340-7288).

The Session will meet Monday October 28th at 6:00 PM in the session room.

Next Sunday is All Saints' Day when we will call the roll of those who passed into God's gracious care during the last year.

The FPC Women's Circle Meeting is Monday, November 4th at King's Grant at 11:00 AM. Gael Chaney will be leading lesson 3. If you are not a King's Grant resident, please sign in at the front desk and purchase your lunch ticket for \$12 upon arrival.

Commitment Sunday is November 10th when we offer our financial and discipleship gifts to God for the upcoming year.

Anyone wishing to support the Presbytery flood disaster relief efforts may do so by sending a check to Presbytery of the Peaks and designate your gift to DR000169. Checks may be placed in with the offering and we will get them to the Presbytery office for you.

Wanted: Faithful Elders to share our Lord's Supper with members who are not able to attend services. This is an opportunity to visit and share with other members by extending our Lord's Supper to all who want to be served and you may serve them any day of communion week. Training is provided for anyone interested in serving as part of First Presbyterian's **Extended Table**. Reach out to Nancy Davis (276-634-1403 or davistwo@comcast.net) for more information on how you can serve others through this vital ministry.

Handbell and Choir rehearsals are each Wednesday. If you are interested in joining, **handbells begin rehearsal at 5:30 PM** in the session room and the **choir meets at 6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. New folks are always welcome! Talk with Spencer if you have any questions.

Be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (various household items and toiletries) and **Grace Network (canned fruit)** (Other needs: toilet paper, deodorant, bath soap, toothpaste, feminine products, dish and laundry detergent) when you do your grocery shopping. Both agencies depend on us for assistance.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, October 27	2 Cents a Meal Offering
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary followed by a Covered Dish Lunch
Monday, October 28	
6:00 PM	Session Meeting
Wednesday, October 30	
5:30 PM	Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
Sunday, November 3	Communion Sunday/All Saints'
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
Monday, November 4	
11:00 AM	PW Circle Meeting at King's Grant
Wednesday, November 6	
5:30 PM	Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
Sunday, November 10	Commitment Sunday
9:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Worship in Sanctuary
Wednesday, November 13	
5:30 PM	Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
Saturday, November 16	
8:00-9:30 AM	Community Breakfast (cooking begins at 7:00 AM)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday – 9:30 – 2:00 PM

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS
October 27	Ashby Pinkard	Monty Montgomery, Betty Hudson
November 3	Nancy Moore	Joe and Jerri DeVault
November 10	Ron Rebman	Judy King, Monty Montgomery
November 17	Lynn Pritchett	Ron Rebman, Nancy Baker
November 24	Monty Montgomery	Monty and Joan Montgomery
December 1	Martha Rollins	Randy and Martha Rollins
December 8	Joe Williams	Billy and Sharon Kirby
December 15	Gale Buck	Neil Tatum, Betty Hudson
December 22	Sam Smith	Johnny and Ashby Pinkard
December 29	Joe DeVault	Monty Montgomery, Betty Hudson

If you cannot serve on the Sunday scheduled, please find a substitute.
If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office.