



Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

God of love, you hold our hearts in your hands.
God of love, you hold our lives in your light.
God of love, you hold our present in your care.
We are still, and we listen for your voice. Amen.

PRELUDE Prelude in C Major J. S. Bach

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP Nick Lindley

In this place,
**friends and strangers meet,
the broken are mended,
and the weary welcomed.**

In this moment,
**the ordinary becomes miraculous,
and life is on pause.
This is God's time.**

In this sanctuary,
**God's goodness is revealed.
Our doors open with kindness.
Our lives join together.**

Let us worship God!

*SONG OF PRAISE Here in This Place Hymnal, No. 401

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Almighty God, we confess that we have not been the faithful disciples you call us to be. We have not remembered who we are. We are distracted by glittering gold. We are mesmerized by fame and fortune. We turn a blind eye to systems that perpetuate injustice. We fail to hear the cries for mercy of those who bear unfair burdens. We close our hearts and imagine empathy to be weakness. Forgive us Lord. Remind us that we are yours, citizens of the kin-dom of God. Give us courage to be kin-dom builders here and now, showing mercy and grace in a world in deep need. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer
(Time for silent reflection)

*THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE Glory to God Hymnal, No. 582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

World without end, without end. Amen (x3)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

Page No. 959

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 96:1-9

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.
Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.
Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

ANTHEM

Autumn Carol

Russell Schulz-Widmar

SCRIPTURE READING

Page No. 803

Matthew 22:15-22
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

When Christ and Culture Meet

Samuel McCann

*SONG OF FAITH

Will You Come and Follow Me

Hymnal, No. 726

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**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**
(Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(LBO)...Response: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

*Please pray the Lord's Prayer
in the language and wording most familiar to you.*

THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Give Thanks

Hymnal, No. 647

Give thanks with a grateful heart;
Give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because we're given
Jesus Christ, the Son. (repeat)

And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
Let the poor say, "We are rich
because of what the Lord has done for us!" (repeat)

Give thanks. Give thanks.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG Sing a New Song unto the Lord Hymnal, No. 276

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE Fanfare Nicolas Jacques Lemmens

*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for October 25: Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 and Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46.

The Food & Shelter items of the month for October are reading glasses and Gatorade. **Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.**