

Welcome to Second Presbyterian Church

Sharing the grace of God with one another and the world around us.



This church welcomes you no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people; if you are looking for a home, stay here; if you need instruction, learn from us as we learn from you. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.

Please visit our website 2ndpreslou.org to connect with various ministries, or to contact the office for more information. If you are new

to us, scan this QR Code to visit our website and learn about our life at Second.



With gratitude to God, 2026 moves Second Presbyterian Church one year closer to celebrating our bicentennial milestone. After reflecting on our achievements and evaluating our current mission, we have identified 5 strategic pathways that will help us meet the needs of our congregation in 2030. We invite you to join us on our continued journey to preserve, strengthen, and innovate our community of faith.

Children of God, welcome home!

Thank you for silencing mobile phones and other devices to honor the sanctity of our worship.

** Please stand if you can do so comfortably.*

Bold type indicates where we share the liturgy together.

Service for the Lord's Day

11 a.m. TOLLING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE	8:30	<i>Chaconne</i>	Johann Pachelbel
	11	<i>Vivace from Trio Sonata No. 3, BWV 527</i>	J.S. Bach
		Mengfei Xu, organ	

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT	<i>Create in Me, O God, A Pure Heart</i>	Johannes Brahms
	The Octet	

PRESENTING THE MEANS OF GRACE

*HYMN 826	<i>Lift High the Cross</i>	CRUCIFER
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*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *read in unison*

God of Redemption, we come before you because you were with us at the first sin and you have remained with us in spite of continually turning away from you. As we begin this season of Lent draws us closer to you. As the winter dimness comes to an end, help us to spring forth to see and share your light. Caution us against the spread of lies and slander. Deter us from false pride and the belief that we know better than you. Humble us to acknowledge you first and not our own selfish and inward thoughts. Redeem us, once again, dear God, and impart to us a path that steers us away from the wandering wilderness and leads to the kingdom you envision. In your holy name, we pray.

Time for silent prayer.

*KYRIE - Hymn 698

Take, O Take Me as I Am

TAKE ME AS I AM

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall
be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first line of the hymn, and the second system covers the second line. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news, who is in a position to condemn, only Christ.

And Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us,
and Christ prays for us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

11a TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

*PASSING OF THE PEACE *read responsively*

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Romans 5:12-19

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Serpent's Blessing

Rev. Andrew Bowman

The Response

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the United Church of Christ

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We welcome you to scan this QR code and visit the Giving page on our website. You can fulfill your pledges and offer your financial support for the ongoing ministries of Second Presbyterian Church. Thank you!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Oh! for a Closer Walk with God

Charles V. Stanford

Oh! for a closer walk with God, a calm and heav'nly frame
a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!
Return, O holy Dove, return! Return!

Sweet messenger of rest; I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
and drove thee from my breast.

So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame:
So purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

—William Conper

*DOXOLOGY 224 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, vs. 2* ROCKINGHAM
 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ my God.
 All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING GRACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.

The Sending

*HYMN 226 *There in God's Garden* SHADES MOUNTAIN
 Choir sings vs. 1; Congregation joins for 2-4

*BLESSING

*POSTLUDE *Hilf, Gott, daß mir's gelinge, BWV 617* J. S. Bach

We are called to go out from our worship to share the grace of God with one another and the world.
 You are welcome to remain seated for the postlude or exit quietly.

In Worship Today

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in memory of Sharon Stern by her husband, John, and her children, Brent and Courtney as well as her grandchildren. Sharon passed away on February 16th, 2025, and was sustained by her strong faith in God.

USHERS

8:30 Greg Treitz

11 John Hubbard, Nancy Hubbard, Jane Roth, Whitney Watt, Kelly Bryant, Kay Reis

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Andrew Bowman, preacher; Rev. Barrett Abernethy, liturgist; Ricky Case (8:30) & Sandy Bailey (11), lay readers.

The Octet (8:30); The Sanctuary Choir (11); Mengfei Xu, organist & conductor

11 Evan Vicic, Audiovisual Engineer; William Vicic, camera

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We Lift Up in Prayer

The family and friends of Dr. Bob Wade on his death, 2/14/26.

David and Amy Wombwell and family on the death of David's father, George Wombwell, 2/7/26.

Jeff and Paula Roberts and family on the death of Jeff's mother, Madge Barnett Roberts, 2/5/26.

The family of Charlie Castner on his death, 2/3/26.

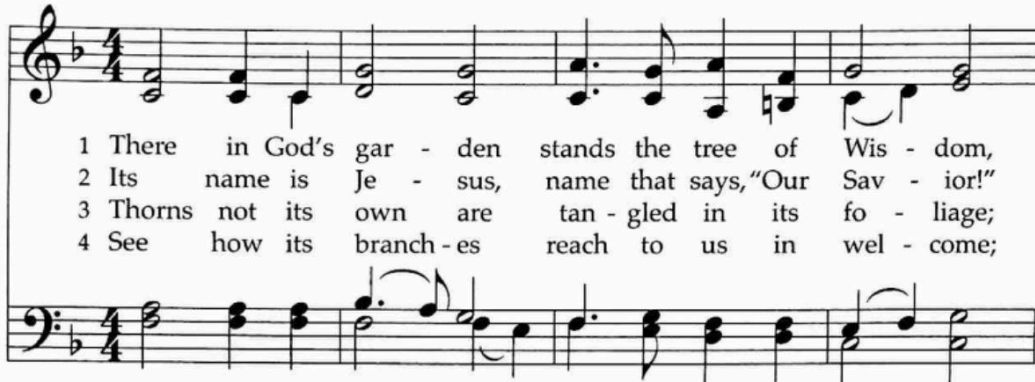
Edith Huber and her family on the death of her husband, Dr. Charles Huber, 1/24/26.

The family of Peggy Putney on her death, 1/9/26.

The family and friends of Emory Apple on her death, 1/7/26.

Brad and Glen Hume & their extended family on the death of his mother, Flo Hume, 1/3/26.

There in God's Garden



1 There in God's gar - den stands the tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - fering;
 our greed has starved it; our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



tree of all knowl - edge, tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness; give me all your

These evocative stanzas on Christ's Passion come from a twelve-stanza hymn by a 17th-century Hungarian pastor, as translated by the preeminent 20th-century hymnologist of the English-speaking world. The tune name honors the composer's home in the foothills of the Appalachians.

TEXT: Pécselyi Király Imre, c. 1641; trans. Erik Routley, 1974

MUSIC: K. Lee Scott, 1976

Text © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

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SHADES MOUNTAIN

11.11.11.5

JESUS CHRIST: PASSION AND DEATH



pas - sion, tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row; I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending;
 this, my resurrection;
 into your hands,
 Lord, I commit my spirit.
 This have I searched for;
 now I can possess it.
 This ground is holy.

6 All heaven is singing,
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion
 offers in mercy
 healing, strength, and pardon.
 Peoples and nations,
 take it; take it freely!"
 Amen! My Master!

Lift High the Cross

826

Refrain

Descant

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

This majestic hymn celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.

TEXT: George William Kitchin, 1887; rev. Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.
MUSIC: Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916; desc. Richard Proulx, 1985
Text and Music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company
Music Desc. © 1985 Hope Publishing Company

CRUCIFER
10.10 with refrain

Mark Your Calendars for These Churchwide Events!

February 25 & March 3, 11 & 18, 5:45 p.m. - Spiritual Practices Class with Rev. Andrew

February 27, 6:30 p.m. - Trivia Night - signups in Narthex/online beginning Jan. 30

March 5, 19 & 26, 12:00 p.m. - Recitals in Lent Series

March 8, 11:00 a.m. - Youth-assisted Worship

March 8, 4:00 p.m. - Weekday School Cleanup (rescheduled)

March 15, 3:00 p.m. - Concert Series: Deep River

March 22, 12:00 p.m. - El Salvador Mission Trip Planning Meeting

March 29, 8:30 & 11 a.m. - Palm/Passion Sunday

April 2, 5:30 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Meal & Communion Service

April 3, 7:00 p.m. - Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 5, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Easter Celebrations

Ruling Elders

Class of 2026

Miriam Ballert
Marilyn Duke
Liz Ratliff Evans
Lindsey Hundley
Lucy Kosse
Deb Vetter
Whitney Watt

Class of 2027

Ann Bowling
John Cunningham
Angela Duffy
Stephanie Fellon
Larry Jones
Justin Powers
Kyle Wiggins

Class of 2028

Caroline Dicken
Mary Clay Edinger
Priss Hovious
Crystal Kannapell
Henry Kelsey
Alexandra Ortiz
Larry Sloan

Youth Elders: Scott Davis & Lillian Powers

Clerk: Chip Snyder

Deacons

Class of 2026

John Davis
Nathan Dicken
Glen Hume
Sissy Judy
Susan McDowell
Paige Reinstine
Kristi Smith

Class of 2027

Kelly Bryant
Tim Clark
Kitty deVoogd
Jim Haynes
Patrice Paton
Kay Reis
Sunny Seale

Class of 2028

Cheeky Bahe
Mac Barr
Lee Best
Terry Cissell
Sara Gilford
Nick Hertzman
John Williams

Staff

Barrett Abernethy *Pastor & Head of Staff*

Andrew Bowman *Associate Pastor for Community Life*

Elizabeth Clay *Coordinator for Pastoral Care*

Karla Wright *Director of the Weekday School*

Lorie Williamson *Director of Children's & Family Ministry*

Jim Rittenhouse *Director of Worship & Music Ministry*

Michael Harper *Coordinator for Youth Ministry*

Mengfei Xu *Organist and Assistant Director of Worship & Music*

Amy Kiefner *Communications Specialist and Technology Administrator*

Tammy Kissling *Ministry Coordinator for Faith Formation & Mission*

Jeremy Doyle *Director of Facilities*

Earl Toepfert *Maintenance Technician*

Yilena Romero Aguilera *Custodian*

Paula S. Roberts *Organist Emerita*

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