

First Presbyterian Church

5401 South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, La. 70125

August 17, 2025

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: “When God Needed a Hug”



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August 17, 2025

11:00 am

Writing in **bold** is for the congregation response.

*Please stand as you are able.

Please silence your phones during worship service.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Welcome everyone, even if your faith feels weak.

People: We are blessed to worship God!

Leader: Welcome everyone, even if things aren't working out.

People: We are blessed to worship God!

Leader: Welcome everyone, even if you feel no one hears your voice.

People: We are blessed to worship God!

Leader: Welcome everyone, even you see nothing but evil,
and hunger for goodness.

People: We are blessed to worship God!

Leader: Welcome everyone, even if you feel like a pushover, even if
people call you naive, even if you feel like all people want to
do is fight, even if you feel hatred for who you are. Welcome.
This is just where you belong.

All: We are blessed to worship God together!

*HYMN 435 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Do not be afraid. None of us are who we should be, but God's judgment is
God's love. While it may be hard to believe, healing begins with bringing
God all that troubles you. The truth, even the awful truth, will free you. Let
us pray together.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

**Father, have mercy on us, we are not the people we should be.
We speak when we should listen, and we are silent when we
should speak.**

(cont'd next page)

We say and do things that break people, and we justify our actions to ourselves. We want to be your faithful servants, but we often fall far short. Have mercy on us.

Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

This is true and very important: we are forgiven. God has washed away our sin so that we may have courage to continue striving. We are more important to God than the things we've done. Praise to God. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!

Response: And also with you!

HEARING THE WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL MUSIC Aya Magavina-Alvarez

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

New Testament Reading Matthew 5:1-12 (pgs. 779-780)

Liturgist: The word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God

Old Testament Reading Genesis (*selected verses from*) 5:-9: (pgs. 4-7)

Speaker: The word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God

SERMON “When God Needed a Hug” elder, Tim Ruppel

*HYMN 424 “Out of the Depths”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Glory to God Presbyterian Hymnal pg. 35

SHARING THE WORD WITH THE WORLD

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY Avery & Marsh

**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. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(...Now, please be with us as we conclude this time with the prayer, taught to us by
your son, saying...)

**ALL 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 he
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*HYMN 795 “Healer of Our Every ILL”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY’S SERVICE:

SPEAKING: elder, Tim Ruppel

LITURGIST: Amanda Williamson

PIANIST: Aya Magavina-Alvarez

OFFERING: elders, Henry and Diane Kleinfeldt

LITURGIST GUIDE PREPARATION: elder, Ted Swartz

HYMN NUMBERS: Canna Frentz

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FPCNO THIS WEEK

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|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Tuesday | 9am-11am | Program of Hope (setup) | Sanctuary |
| | 7pm-9pm | "Big Easy" AA Group | Fellowship Hall |
| Wednesday | 9am-10:30am | Program of Hope | Sanctuary |
| | 7pm-9pm | Disco Amigos | Fellowship Hall |
| Thursday | 7pm-9pm | MCC | Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday | 9:45am -10:15am | F.P.C Adult Bible Study | Conference Rm. |
| | 10am-11am | M.C.C Sunday Service | Fellowship Hall |
| | 11am-12pm | F.P.C Sunday Service | Sanctuary |





WELCOME VISITORS!

We Are Glad You Are Here

We welcome you to historic, progressive First Presbyterian Church this morning! Even if you are just visiting the city, we want you to feel welcome in our community and to involve yourself in the life of this place. Here are a few things to get you up to speed.

- If you are a visitor or guest we invite you to sign the visitor/guest register which is located in the Narthex and/or sign the guest/visitors card located in your bulletin and put in the offering plate. We care about you and want to know who you are.
- A bathroom is available (with a changing table) at the back of the church in the left hand alcove as you face the entrance doors.
- During the time of the passing of the peace, some may be comfortable with hugs, laughs, and conversation, but others may not. Please be respectful of one another's comfort levels. If you would prefer to maintain a social distance, you may pass the peace by folding your arms, making a peace sign, or whatever is comfortable for you.
- **Great news!** We have resumed having coffee available in the narthex before, during, and after worship. Big thanks to our elder, Henry Kleinfeldt for preparing the coffee! We are also offering snacks. Feel free to donate your favorite kinds and leave them on the table beside the coffee fixings.
- We were the first "More Light" congregation in New Orleans and now are the first congregation to be a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians in New Orleans. Which means we welcome not only the membership, but the leadership and talents of all genders, abilities, races, and sexual orientations.
- We appreciate the spiritual and financial support your attendance brings. If you wish, you may put cash or a check in the offering plate that will be passed towards the end of the service. If you would like to use a credit card or PayPal to make a secure donation to the Program of Hope or the Capital Campaign, you can go to the church's website, www.fpcno.org and click on the links on the right hand side of the home page.



Please like us on Facebook at facebook.com/fpcno and also follow us on X (formerly Twitter) at <https://x.com/fpcno>.

We don't have an official church newsletter, but you can find updates on our Facebook page (above) and website, www.fpcno.org.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

504-866-7409 * FAX 504-910-4477

WWW.FPCNO.ORG; FACEBOOK.COM/FPCNO; TWITTER.COM/FPCNO

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

PASTOR

REV. KATHLEEN CRIGHTON

REVKATHY@FPCNO.ORG

OFFICE MANAGER/LEASING CONSULTANT

CHERYL A. ROBERTS

CHERYL@FPCNO.ORG

MUSICIANS:

AYA MAGAVINA-ALVAREZ; SYDNEY MCMATH; AMANDA WADSWORTH

WEDDING COORDINATOR:

DEE BOLING

WEDDINGS@FPCNO.ORG

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CHAIR

BRUCE MATHER

WEBSITE TECHS:

TERRY RUPPEL; CARRIE FISHER

TECH SUPPORT:

RICHARD TATUM

SEXTONS:

CORVUS JANITORIAL

THE SESSION

CLERK OF SESSION

KEN ALLEN

ASSISTANT CLERK OF SESSION

BRUCE MATHER

CLASS OF 2024

HENRY KLEINFELDT

LYDIA POLLARD

CLASS OF 2025

BRUCE MATHER

CHRISTIE RUPPEL

CLASS OF 2026

ZANE FISHER

TED SWARTZ

PROGRAM OF HOPE DIRECTOR

DIANE KLEINFELDT

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