

First Presbyterian Church

5401 South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, La. 70125

October 5, 2025

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



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Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost/World Communion Sunday

October 5, 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: We gather from the west to the east, from the south to the north.

People: To celebrate the God of peace who accompanies us in our acts of peace.

Leader: This God of peace accompanies us in each and every circumstance around us.

People: We praise God's name! Amen!

*HYMN 336 "We Gather Together"

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Faced with God's goodness, we recognize our failings. In the knowledge of God's mercy, we dare tell the truth about ourselves and our world. In the confidence of God's children, let us confess our sins.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Gracious Lord, creator of this universe, in your generosity you have given us a world of abundance and diversity. Yet we live guided by greed and selfishness. In Christ, you made us brothers and sisters and intended for us to be united. Yet we have built walls to separate us from those who are different from us. We love war rather than strive for peace. We ignore the poor and the weak and honor the rich and powerful. In all this we have not lived according to your will. Forgive us, Lord, for daring to boast in our human achievements and for failing to recognize that you alone are worthy of praise. In your mercy, forgive us.

Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God accepts us just as we are, not as we wish we were. Through Christ, our sins are forgiven. May God help us to sow seeds of peace to those who are near and far. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!

Response: And also with you!

HEARING THE WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM the Choir, Amanda Wadsworth directing

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 8 (pgs. 435-436)

Liturgist: The word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God

New Testament Reading

Romans 14:13, 17-19 (pg. 920)

Preacher: The word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God

SERMON

“Pursue Peace”

Rev. Kathleen Crighton

*HYMN 529 “Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

SHARING THE WORD WITH THE WORLD

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Designated Communion offering to Peace and Global Witness)

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

COMMUNION LITURGY

Parts of today's liturgy are from the worship resources for the Peace and Global Witness Offering of the PC(USA) for 2024, as well as the Communion Service B from the Iona Abbey Worship Book.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, to give you thanks and praise,
O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe...

...So, gladly, we join our voices to those of earth, sea, and sky,
in the universal hymn of praise which echoes through time and
eternity:

(All sing:)

Holy, holy, holy! Holy is the Lord.

Holy, holy, holy! Holy is the Lord.

Holy is the Father, Holy is the Son,

Holy is the Spirit, Blessed Three in One.

Leader: Come now, O Christ, forever bound to us in promise and mystery...
...We proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Leader: Let us say what we believe, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

The Apostles' Creed (*p. 35 in Glory to God hymnal*)

The Lord's Prayer

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Lord Jesus, we have been guests at your table. Come with us
wherever we go, and be present in all we share. Summon in us,
whom you have fed, generosity of spirit to ensure that all the
hungry are nourished and earth's barren places are fertile with
food, faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

*HYMN 821 "My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing?)"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY’S SERVICE:

SPEAKING: Rev. Kathleen Crighton

LITURGIST: elder, Lydia Pollard

ANTHEM: the Choir, Amanda Wadsworth directing

PIANIST: Sydney McMath

OFFERING: elder, Brue Mather and Canna Frentz

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 |
| | 11am-1pm | Gurdjieff Foundation | Fellowship Hall |
| Thursday | 7pm-9pm | MCC | Fellowship Hall |
| Saturday | 11am-2pm | Disco Amigos | 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

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

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

PASTOR

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OFFICE MANAGER/LEASING CONSULTANT

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CHERYL@FPCNO.ORG

MUSICIANS:

AYA MAGAVINA-ALVAREZ; SYDNEY MCMATH; AMANDA WADSWORTH

WEDDING COORDINATOR:

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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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