



“There is no one who is insignificant in the purpose of God.” – ALISTAIR BEGG

August 24, 2025

WE GATHER IN HIS PRESENCE

GATHERING MUSIC Allison Thorp
: with Chimes Ensemble :

“As the Deer” arr. Peggy Bettcher

As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after you.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength, my shield.
To you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship you.

“Awesome God” arr. Peggy Bettcher

Our God is an awesome God
Who reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, power, and love.
Our God is an awesome God.
(x2)

“I Will Enter His Gates” arr. Peggy Bettcher

I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart.
I will enter his courts with praise.
I will say, "this is the day that the Lord has made."
I will rejoice for he has made me glad.

He has made me glad, he has made me glad.
I will rejoice for he has made me glad.
He has made me glad, he has made me glad.
I will rejoice for he has made me glad.
(x2)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING THE TRINITY

PRELUDE “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”
Diane Combs Anna Laura Page

*CALL TO WORSHIP, responsive

Let us worship and praise Almighty God!
We acknowledge God is present in the world and in our lives.
Let us worship, delighting in our Creator.
We focus our minds and hearts on God alone.
Worship shapes the soul.
Worship refreshes our faith.
Expect to hear God's voice today.
Let us worship and praise Almighty God!

*OPENING HYMN “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty” #35

1. Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation!
O my soul, praise him,
for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!

2. Praise ye the Lord, who o’er all things
so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e’er have been
granted in what he ordaineth?

3. Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly for aye we adore him.

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Most Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and what we
have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry
and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and
forgive us; that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

— A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION—

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

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.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven
and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin
Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead,
and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He
arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and
sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from
thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the
communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the
resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

:: PASSING THE PEACE ::

And now, as people who are loved and forgiven by the grace of God,
we pass the peace of Christ, remembering God's command to love
and forgive one another.

ANTHEM “Fairest Lord Jesus” arr. Carl Schalk
Chancel Choir & Chimes Ensemble

Congregation: [please join when directed]
Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man.
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine.

FIRST SCRIPTURE Psalm 71:17-21 Wes Lee

SECOND SCRIPTURE Luke 13:10-17

SERMON “Prisoners of Hope”
Rev. Dr. Paul Koptak

:: PRAYERS of the PEOPLE ::

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.

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE “Live into Hope” #772

**1. Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
the year of God’s own jubilee!**

**2. Live into hope! The blind shall see
with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear,
a vision of our God brought near.**

**3. Live into hope of liberty,
the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one’s daily bread,
to hear God’s word and thus be fed.**

**4. Live into hope of captives freed
from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
to faith and hope and joy and peace.**

GOD’S TITHES & OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”
Madelyn Walker, soloist arr. Margaret Bonds

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN “Go to the World” #295**

**1. Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life’s worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**2. Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God’s redeeming grace.
Go seek God’s presence in each time and space.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**3. Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;
The nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ’s own way.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**4. Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry “Amen!”
Alleluia. Alleluia.**



***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE “Canticle of Joy”**
Diane Combs J.S. Bach

*** Please stand as you are able for these portions of the service.**

Rev. Dr. Paul Koptak

*We welcome Paul Koptak to the pulpit this morning.
Paul grew up in New Jersey, taught communication and
Old Testament in Chicago at North Park Seminary, and
loves living the retired life in Waynesville. Paul is an
ordained minister of the Evangelical Covenant Church
and a volunteer chaplain at Haywood Pathways Center.*

Our Deacons

Merry Matlock, Moderator 732-423-4713

*Kate Bailey 434-242-2718 Sherry Blount 828-736-1449
Ann Kline 828-734-4310 Brenda Sites 954-675-6176*

Our Church Elders

<i>Clerk of Session</i>	RON TINGLE	828-400-6900
<i>Building & Grounds</i>	EDDIE HENDRICKSON (2027)	828-283-1854
<i>Discipleship</i>	LAURA JANSON (2026)	828-712-7938
<i>Elder for Deacons</i>	MERRY MATLOCK (2027)	732-423-4713
<i>Fellowship</i>	MELONIE GROSS (2026)	773-405-5889
<i>Finance</i>	STAN BRIGGS (2026)	941-544-8100
<i>Missions</i>	PAT BRIGGS (2027)	828-550-8432
<i>Personnel</i>	RON TINGLE (2026)	828-400-6900
<i>Worship</i>	WES LEE (2025)	828-400-0037



**FIRST
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First Presbyterian Church

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1875-2025

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**YEARS OF
GOD’S
FAITHFULNESS**

August 24, 2025



Waynesville, North Carolina