

November 9, 2025



**First Presbyterian
Church**
of Pittsburgh

WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:45 am

****Please stand as you are able***

Prelude: “*Variations on ‘Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan’*”
Johann Pachelbel (What God Does is Always Right)

Dr. Wayne Earnest, *organ*

Time of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Craig M. Walls
Senior Pastor

Gathering Before the Word

***Responsive Call to Worship**

Judy Shipley
Missions Chair

Leader: The Lord is our rock and our refuge.

People: God is our fortress in times of trouble.

Leader: The Holy One saves us from the hand of the wicked.

People: God delivers us from our foes.

Leader: Christ heals us from our infirmities.

People: The Spirit frees us from the chains that bind us.

Leader: Rest in the Source of our refuge and our strength.

Where can we stand when God is shaking the earth?

People: We will stand on the promises of God.

Leader: Where can we find support when our foundations fail?

People: We will lean on the everlasting arms of God.

All: Let us worship the God of our salvation.

***Hymn #729:** “*Lord, I Want to be a Christian*” (*located in this bulletin*)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Judy Shipley

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. And we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive us what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. *Amen.*

Time of Silent Prayer and Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Walls

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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Children's Message

Judy Shipley

***Hymn #451:** *"Open My Eyes, That I May See"* (located in this bulletin)

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading: Luke 17:5-6

Judy Shipley

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: *"Trees, Legos and Motorcycles"*

Rev. Walls

Responding to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed**

We 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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Call for the Offering (*Online giving available, scan code on back*)

Rev. Walls

Anthem: "My Alleluia"

Heather Sorenson

Ruth Ann Reamer, *piano*
Anderson Lacerda, *violin*
Viviana Antonio, *cello*

*Before I greet the morning sun, before I start the day,
I'll thank You for the things to come, I'll worship as I pray.*

Chorus

*Alleluia, alleluia, All your children sing worship to their King.
Songs of love we bring. Alleluia, alleluia.*

*Before I go to sleep at night, before I close my eyes.
I'll thank You for the things You've done and lift my praise on high,
I'll lift my praise on high. (Chorus)*

*And when I take my final breath and wake on heaven's shore,
I'll sing the song I've sung before in praise forevermore.
I'll praise forevermore! (Chorus)*

*Hear our praises rise, glory fills the skies to the Lord Most High:
Alleluia, alleluia.*

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; alleluia, alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Walls

***Hymn #269:** "Lead On, O King Eternal" (located in this bulletin)

***Invitation, Charge and Benediction**

Postlude: "Toccata on 'Let the Whole Creation Cry'"

Robert Hobby

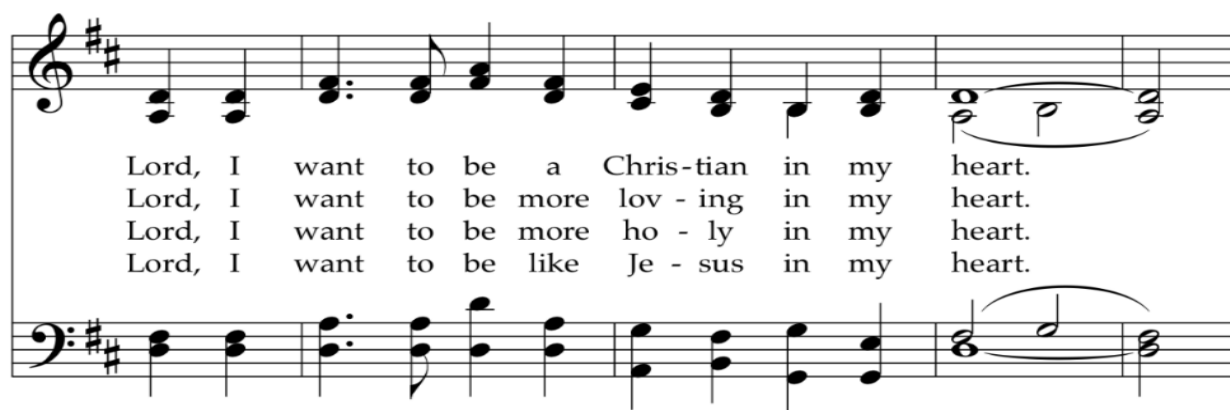
Dr. Wayne Earnest, *organ*



729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian



1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
 2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
 4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.



In my heart, in my heart,
 In my heart, in my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Through its recurring phrase, "in my heart," this poignant African American spiritual expresses the desire that our professed faith will not be superficial or hypocritical but will permeate the very center of our being, so that we may truly be the people God calls us to be.

Open My Eyes, That I May See 451



1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
 2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic-es of truth thou send-est clear.
 3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un-clasp and
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev-ery-thing false will
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 dis-ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy



will to see. O-pen my eyes; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!
 will to see. O-pen my ears; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!
 will to see. O-pen my heart; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!



The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

269 Lead On, O King Eternal!



1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents shall be our home.
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
 for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears;

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong,
 for not with swords' loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums;
 your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light.

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
 with deeds of love and mer - cy the heaven-ly king-dom comes.
 The crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Not everything that looks like a battle ends up being one. This text, written for a seminary graduation, works well with its martial tune in the first stanza; but later stanzas turn from such imagery and focus on "deeds of love and mercy" and courage for life's journey.

Ongoing/Upcoming Opportunities . . .

Hospitality Hour

Join us after worship this morning for a time of refreshments and fellowship in the chapel. If you're visiting with us, we would especially like to get to know you!

Sunday School

The Cornerstone Class continues to explore the early Church through a study of the **Book of Acts**. The class meets from **9:30 - 10:30 a.m.** in **Room #17** (chapel area, next to the stage). If you'd like to join them for fellowship and learning, please contact **Charlie Claudon at 412-400-4868**. Children's Sunday School also continues in Room 4 downstairs. All children ages kindergarten to fifth grade are invited.

Junior Church

Junior Church will meet today in the same room #4 and use the same curriculum as the Children's Sunday School. Note that it won't meet on Communion Sundays, as we want the children to experience the Communion Service. We will also be starting a Children's Communion Curriculum in November.

Membership Opportunity – It's not too late!

If you missed the New Member classes, but are still interested in becoming a member, contact Cheryl Swartz at the church office at 412-471-3436 x220 or cswartz@fpcp.org for more information. We would love to have you as part of the First Church family!

Christmas Tree Raising – Saturday, November 15

It's time to raise our beautiful 24' Christmas tree in the Chapel! Those of you who have participated in the raising of the tree in the past know that it's a task that requires many hands. *Light Up Night 2025* is November 22, so we need to have the tree in place by then. We're hoping that some of you can join us on **Saturday, November 15** from **9am-1pm**. There are numerous small tasks related to the raising of the tree, so even if you don't have much muscle to offer, we can still use your help. (*Enter through Oliver Avenue entrance; pastries and coffee will be available*). If you can join us, please contact Cheryl in the church office at 412-471-3436 or cswartz@fpcp.org. Thanks in advance for your help!

Light Up Night - November 22

Once again, First Church is pleased to participate in Pittsburgh's annual *Light Up Night* - a festive prelude to the Christmas season. The church will be open to the public **Saturday, November 22** from **4:30-8:00 pm**. We will offer refreshments, tours of the church and Christmas music. We will need a dozen volunteers the night of the event to help make this outreach a success. (Preparation will begin at 3:30 pm). We will also need cookie bakers/donors in advance of the event. Please contact Cheryl at the church office if you can help in any way – cswartz@fpcp.org or 412-471-3436 x220.

Welcome Back, UCHI and Warm Hands! - November 23

On **Sunday, November 23**, we will welcome back **Stephen Haluszczak**, President of **Ukrainian Cultural and Humanitarian Institute (UCHI)**, and greet **Tetiana Mialkovska**, a well-known Ukrainian artist and director of **Warm Hands Arts Therapy Camp** near Lutsk, Ukraine. *Warm Hands* provides psychological and physical care for children who have suffered displacement and the loss of parental care as a result of the war. Stephen and Tetiana will speak and answer questions during the 9:30 Sunday School hour. Along with others from UCHI, they will attend worship and offer a moment for mission. A generous display of children's art will be available during fellowship for purchase as a full donation to *Warm Hands*. Plan now to join us on November 23.

Thank you for your Generosity!

Along with "sincerest thanks" from **Katie DeJournette** on behalf of **Hosanna Industries**, FPCP's Missions Committee is glad to announce the total of the 2025 Special Missions Offering. Thanks to you, **\$1,887.90** has been sent to Hosanna and will go toward the acquisition of a new tool van. If you like what Hosanna Industries does, and would consider volunteering in some simple ways, a few opportunities will be announced soon. Again, thank you!

Birthday Blessings

Mia Swann

First Church Staff

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Doug Williams
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Our Sanctuary is open to visitors Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Call to Schedule a Tour!

You can reach the Church Office Monday – Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Call: 412-471-3436 | Email: info@fpcp.org | www.fpcp.org.

Visiting Us Today?



Scan Code to Connect with Us!

Giving Online?



Scan Code to Give!

Need Validated Parking?

Sundays only, get a sticker for your parking ticket at the FPCP Welcome Center in the Narthex (front lobby). Scan both sides of the ticket at the payment booth at the **Oliver**, **Mellon Square**, and **Smithfield** garages to pay \$1 for parking.

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