

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHIMES

(The congregation is asked to pray for the blessing of God upon this service.)
God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, and the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength. Amen.

PRELUDE *Chorale Variation II on O God, Our Faithful God*
J. S. Bach

INTROIT *Behold the Goodness of Our Lord* CRIMOND
The Women of the Sanctuary Choir

Behold the goodness of our Lord, A company of God's beloved,
How blest it is to be In holy unity.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

The world belongs to the Lord
The earth and all its people.
How good and lovely it is
To live together in unity.
Love and faith come together
Justice and peace join hands.
If the Lord's disciples keep silent
Those stones would shout aloud.
Lord, open our lips
And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

†OPENING HYMN, No. 288 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*
ELLACOMBE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We would want to be fountains of hope for others, God of glory, but people find only hardened hearts. We would like to be transformed people, but our stubborn pride prevents us from bending a knee to you. We long to stand with those who are in need, but our selfishness keeps our backs rigid in judgment.

Forgive us, God who came down to us. Humble us, that we might be true servants to the broken and lost. Split open our frozen hearts, that compassion might flow freely to those who are hurting. Fill our minds with the presence of your Spirit, that we might learn how to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, into that kingdom of grace and hope.

(Continue your personal prayer of confession in silence)

KYRIE ELEISON, No. 572 Congregation and Choir

**Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†ACT OF PRAISE *Gloria Patri* MEINEKE

**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, Amen.**

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

Stand, as you are able, and greet one another saying: *"The peace of Christ be with you."* Respond by saying: *"And also with you."*
(Children are invited to come forward now for A Time with Children.)

THE WORD

A TIME WITH CHILDREN Karen Yoder Day

Leader: As you depart from us now, the children of God say:
Children: God be with you as you stay.
Congregation: God be with you as you go.
**We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.**
**We are marching, marching,
we are marching in the light of God.**

Children, ages 2-3 yrs. who will be going to Extended Session and children, ages 4-first grade who will be in The Worship Center, may exit at this time through the narthex, where they will be escorted to the CE Building.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 17:1-7
Pew Bible, page 61; large print, page 79
(Bibles are located in the racks beneath the pews.)

ANTHEM *O God, My Faithful God*
arr. Sigfrid Karg-Elert
The Sanctuary Choir

O God, my faithful God, Give me the strength to do
True fountain ever flowing, With ready heart and willing
Without whom nothing is, Whatever you command,
All perfect gifts bestowing: My calling here fulfilling-
Give me a healthy frame, To do it when I ought,
And may I have within With all my might - and bless
A conscience free from blame, Whatever I have wrought,
A soul unstained by sin. For you must give success.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 21:23-32
Pew Bible, page 21; large print, page 28
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Beyond the Religious Establishment*
Rev. Pendleton Peery

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - A Declaration of Faith

**We declare that Jesus is Lord.
His resurrection is a decisive victory over the powers that deform and destroy human life.
His lordship is hidden.
The world appears to be dominated by people and systems that do not acknowledge his rule.
But his lordship is real.
It demands our loyalty and sets us free from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us.
We maintain that ultimate sovereignty now belongs to Jesus Christ in every sphere of life. Jesus is Lord!
He has been Lord from the beginning.
He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.**

†HYMN, No. 379 *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* SOLID ROCK

MOMENT FOR DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING
Offertory *God, Grant Us Strength* J. S. Bach
The Sanctuary Choir

God, grant us strength to do And do it when we ought,
With ready heart and willing, With zeal and joyfulness;
Whatever you command, And bless the work we've wrought,
Our calling here fulfilling; For you must give success.

†Doxology, No. 592 OLD HUNDREDTH
†Prayer of Dedication

†HYMN, No. 423 *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*
DUKE STREET

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†RESPONSE 432 *Song of Hope* ARGENTINA
The Sanctuary Choir and Congregation
**May the God of hope go with us every day,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace,
Singing, share our joy with all,
Working for a world that's new,
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

† Worshipers standing if able.

The flowers today are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Ronnie Doreck, Jack Raush
and Florence Velotta
by Ruth Doreck.

Elder Reader: Ruth Doreck
Ushers: Carole Markham, Bill Warner, Terrell Sugar, Carol Richey, Sammy Guy,
Holly Guy, Doug Caulkins
Extended Session: Patricia Porter
Worship Center Leaders: Anna Gnann, Brenda Nims
Acolytes: Elizabeth Lunn, Emma Lunn

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Session Ministry Moderators:

John Frierson	Administration	johnfrierson60@yahoo.com
John Guth	Church Facilities	johnguth@bellsouth.net
Rick LaBorde	Outreach	claborde@wpspump.com
David Oliver	Stewardship	dmo@rcco.com
Lynn Chance	Congregational Life	LWChance@att.net
Robert Folsom	Adult	robertfolsom@lendersoption.net
David Butterfield	Youth	david@msrlaw.com
Rob Ajluni	Children	robajluni@hotmail.com
George Fritze	Evangelism	kinggpf@yahoo.com
Bruce Henderson	Worship	bhenderson@highlandclinic.com
Elton Richey	Communications	ebrlaw@bellsouth.net
Julie Blewer	Staff Committee	jblewer@djslawfirm.com

Church Staff:

Pendleton B. Peery	Pastor
Bryan L. McDowell	Associate Pastor
Sarah Cooper Searight	Associate Pastor
Hollice S. Watson	Organist/Choir Director
Lindsey Wells Peery	Director of Children's Ministries
Peggy E. Sartin	Administrative Coordinator
Cindy K. Natale	Director, First Presbyterian Day School
Ginger Collier	Communications Director
Lauren Rogers	Director of Youth Ministry
Susan B. Whaley	Church Secretary
Lona L. Lockard	Staff Secretary
Jeff A. McKenzie	Sexton
Sherry L. Odom	Housekeeper
Lillie M. Sutton	Housekeeper

Our Mission

Responding to God's grace and building upon the strength of our Reformed tradition, we, the members of First Presbyterian Church, seek to: Proclaim joyfully the Good News, revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; live as a welcoming and nurturing community of faith through worship, prayer, study and fellowship; and serve others - at home and beyond our community with love, compassion, respect, justice and mercy, in the name of Jesus Christ and after His example. May God empower us by the Holy Spirit to fulfill our call to be God's people.

WORSHIP NOTES

WE WELCOME FRIENDS AND VISITORS. This church is for anyone who wants to be counted as a disciple of Jesus Christ, and who wants to be included in its worship and work. Thank you for signing your name and address on the attendance pad. There is an information center with material about our church and Presbyterianism in the foyer of the Jordan Street entrance to the sanctuary.

CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN by Sitters' Registry and church volunteers. Nursery available for 8:45 a.m. Morning Prayer and 10:45 a.m. Worship in Room CE-106; Extended Session during 10:45 a.m. worship for ages 2 yrs.—3 yrs.: Room CE-105 and The Worship Center for ages 4 yrs.— first grade: Room CE-113.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP! Bibles are available for use during worship; they are found at the end of every pew. We also provide **Worship Bags** designed for children elementary age and younger. The worship bags can be found in the narthex and at the front entrances to the sanctuary. Please return them after the service.

WE EXPRESS sincere sympathy to Sabra Bushnell and family in the death of her brother, Brigadier General James H. Berge, of Washington DC, September 19, 2011, and we rejoice with them in the assurance of resurrection.

CONGRATULATIONS to Bratton Frierson and Caroline Leone who were married September 17, 2011.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: We continue to be grateful for the congregation's financial support of our church's mission and ministry. Please keep your pledges to the annual budget up to date. Thank you!



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
SHREVEPORT**

**A Service for the Worship of God
Ten Forty-Five O'Clock
September 25, 2011
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us worship God.