

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

Prelude *Lord of the Dance* Sydney Carter, arr. Larry Stanley

Greeting and Announcements **Opening Sentences**

***Doxology** - all to sing No. 592

*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.*

***Prayer of Praise**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Let First Presbyterian Church say,

People: If the Lord had not been on our side, where would we be?

Leader: You, who are many, are transformed to become one in Christ.

People: We, who are many, are called to worship God, the Three in One.

Leader: Let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn** “[All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!](#)”

***Call to Confession**

Leader: We seek the will of God, but still find ourselves conformed to this world, instead of being transformed into God’s image. Let us seek forgiveness for the ways we have turned away from justice and mercy.

***Prayer of Confession** (in unison)

Almighty God, When faced with earthly powers that seem overwhelming, we crumble. We fear this world. We fear losing our status, our stability, our station more than we fear you. Forgive our shortcomings and teach us to trust in you when we take a risk for what we know is right.

A Time of Silent Prayer

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader: If God was not on our side, we could not stand in the judgment. But God is with us, steadfast and faithful, as we seek to live in peace. This is good news!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

***Response of Praise**-all to sing “Gloria Patri” No. 579

*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.*

***We Share God’s Peace**

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

(You are invited to share God’s peace as you greet those around you.)

Special Music

Flow Gently, Sweet Afton

Jonathan E. Spilman, arr. Anna Laura Page

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

[Psalm 124 \(NRSV\)](#)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

[Matthew 16:13-20 \(NRSV\)](#)

Sermon

“Who People Say”
our help is

The Rev. M. Rex Espiritu

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People...The Lord’s Prayer (‘debts’ and debtors’)

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn ["At the Name of Jesus"](#)

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* arr. Jack Schrader

(We invite you to remain seated through the Postlude.)

*Indicates that those who are able may stand.

Offering plates are located at the back of the Sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available from the greeters upon request.

Lectionary readings for August 30, 2026

Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124

Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20