Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church of Virginia Beach. All are welcome, and we are so pleased to have you with us this morning as we gather to praise God.

GUESTS
We extend a special welcome to you! Whether this is your first visit with us or your 100th visit, it is a gift to have you among us. Please take a moment to sign in using the Welcome Pads in the pews and leave contact information for Pastor Dee Dee to reach out to you. We are excited you are here and look forward to welcoming you into the life of the church through our ministries. You can find more information on our church website: www.firstpresvb.org.

If you ever struggle to hear while in our Sanctuary, we have a few options that might help you. First, you can see one of our ushers for a hearing device that fits over your ear and might assist you. Second, our Sanctuary has a hearing loop installed on the main floor. If you use hearing aids that are equipped with a T-coil, you are able to connect your hearing aids directly into our sound system. Please see an usher for instructions on how to connect your hearing aids into our system.

WORSHIP GUIDE
Items in bold indicate congregational participation. * invites you to stand in body or in spirit. Please silence all mobile devices prior to the start of the service.

September 17, 2023
THE GATHERING

GREETING

Sharing the Peace of Christ
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us welcome one another with the peace of Christ.

VOLUNTARY

God Whose Giving Knows No Ending Setting by Wilbur Held

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 103
Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

People: Who forgives all your iniquity and heals all your diseases.

Leader: Who redeems your life from the pit,

People: Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

Leader: Who satisfies you with good as long as you live,

People: So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

OPENING PRAYER

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 307
God of Grace and God of Glory CWM RHONDDA

* CALL TO CONFESSION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we confess that we have failed to live in harmony with our siblings in Christ. We have shunned those whose ways we do not understand, and we have despised those who do not endorse our convictions. Forgive us, O God, and heal our divisions. Help us to see people around us as your beloved children and to treat them with love and grace. Amen. (Silent prayers and confession)
* KYRIE

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

* DECLARATION OF PARDON

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN 581

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.

THE WORD

WORD FOR CHILDREN: SPIRIT BOX

Following this time, children ages 5 years – 5th grade may return to their seats or join our Wonders of Worship team in Room 215. Children will rejoin their families in the Sanctuary near the end of the service in time for the offering. Parents, if this is your child’s first time in WOW, please go with them to help them settle in before returning to your pew.

Children 2-4 years old will join caregivers in Room 214 and may be picked up after the service.

*Our Nursery, located on the first floor, is available for our youngest children and infants during the entire worship service.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON OF SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

ANTHEM (11:00 am)

Peace I Leave With You

Walter L. Petz

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled; neither let it be afraid.
Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON  
Famous Last Words: So Long, Farewell  
Rev. Dee Dee Carson

* HYMN 716  
God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending  
BEACH SPRING

THE RESPONSE

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH  
The Confession of Belhar  
We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.
SERVICE OF GIVING

Offering

Offertory

O Wisdom’s Energy

Hildegard von Bingen

Jeanette Corey, soloist

O Wisdom’s energy! Whirling, you encircle
and everything embrace in the single way of life.

Three wings you have: one soars above into the heights,
one from the earth exudes, and all about now flies the third.
Praise be to you, as is your due, O Wisdom.

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all
creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

THE SENDING

* RECESSIONAL HYMN 744

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

* BENEDICTION

* VOLUNTARY

The Church’s One Foundation

Setting by Carson Cooman

THE FLOWERS in the Chancel are provided to the glory of God by the FPC Flower Guild.
OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by the grace and truth of Christ, we nurture one another’s faith to do God’s work in the world.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church approved the above statement in and affirmed the following ten values to guide the leaders of our church as they prayerfully plan for our congregation’s future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Values that Reach UP</th>
<th>Values that Reach OUT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>Ministries that serve the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preaching</td>
<td>Congregational Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Financial Stewardship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer</td>
<td>Early Childhood Christian Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible Teaching</td>
<td>Family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PASTORS AND STAFF

The Reverend Dee Dee Carson, Pastor
Jacqui Horton, Director of Senior Adult Ministries
Randy DuVall, Commissioned Pastor and Director of Missions
Elise Ramos-Krepcho, Music Director
Brian Edwards, Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministries
Bonnie Lambert-Baxter, Director of Children’s Music and Handbells
Dr. Antoinette Anglin, Organist

SESSION

Sallie Bryant, Becky Davison (Clerk), Hunter Frischkorn, Justin Fulton, Liz Harris, Paul Hirschbiel, Sophia Kamerek (Youth Elder), Shannan Poteran, Marvin Rhoades, Martha Simkins, Jim Sykes, Jon Thornton, Kristen Whalen, Ashley Wykle

TRUSTEES

Tom Cantwell, Gael Daugherty, Laurie Dawson, Dudley Fulton, Pam Pyle, Hunter Sims.

First Presbyterian offers you the opportunity to give electronically. Scan the QR Code to the left and make a donation.