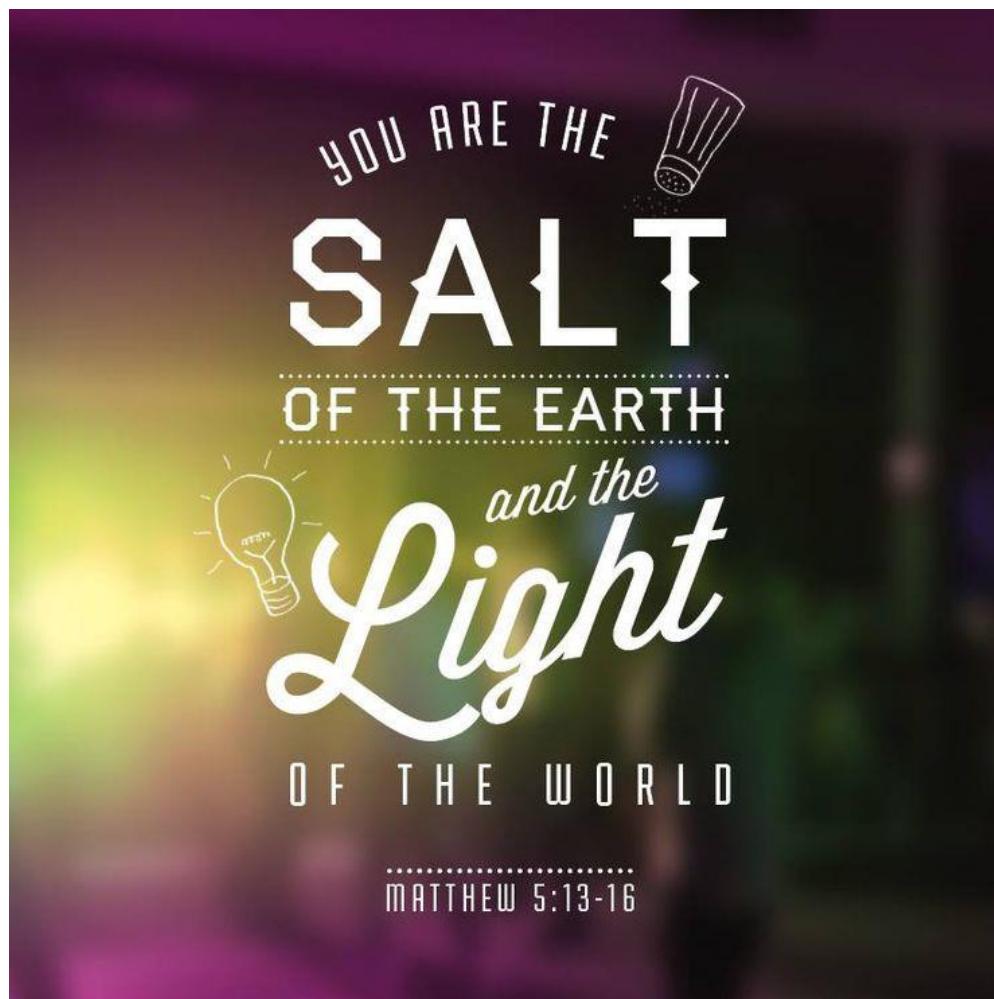


First Presbyterian Church
19 Seminary Street
Barre, Vermont

Welcomes You to Worship



Sunday Morning Worship Service

February 8, 2026 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome!

*Join us as we experience our spiritual journey through Christian community and
by living God's love in word and deed.*

GATHERING

Today's hymns are from the purple "Glory to God" hymnal. This service is being recorded for viewing on Facebook and on our website. Please guard your privacy as best you see fit.

Gathering on Abenaki Lands and Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 112)

Leader: People of God, praise the LORD!

Congregation: **Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the LORD, those who greatly delight in his commandments.**

Leader: Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Congregation: **Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever. We who gather are broken yet holy; sinners at heart, yet fully redeemed. We are God's very own, called together here this day.**

Leader: Let us sing. Let us pray. Let us join together in worship. Praise the Lord!

★Opening Hymn #288 "Spirit of the Living God"

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

PRAYING for RECONCILIATION and FORGIVENESS

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess that it is harder to do than we expected, this life of faith. You call us to be salt of the earth and to live lives of justice and righteousness and love. But our lives become busy. Following what others do is just easier. And sometimes the cost for doing what is right seems too high. One day, perhaps, we will commit more fully, but the status quo works better for us right now. Forgive us, we pray. Startle our senses and disrupt our routines. Renew in us the passion for doing what is right in your eyes and inspire us to be sources of your light in the world. May we, like the prophets and the saints, act by faith no matter how high the cost.

Assurance of Pardon (*Isaiah 58:6-9*)

Leader: “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Congregation: **Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?**

Leader: Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Congregation: **Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”**

Leader: We are blessed to know that very light which breaks forth. We know God’s love and grace through Jesus Christ.

Congregation: **Through Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we know new life. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

★ **Passing of the Peace** - Now is the time we pass the peace saying "Peace be with you," responding with "And also with you." When we pass the peace of Christ, we affirm that the nature of our faith is founded in the love, grace, and peace Christ continually extends to us.

LISTENING

Scripture Readings Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon "Salt and Light" Rev. Dwight

LITANY OF FAITH IN ACTION

Leader: Lord we believe in you because the beauty of the world speaks through you.

Congregation: Lord, we believe in you because the goodness in the world comes from you.

Leader: Lord, we believe in you because you created me for your purpose.

Congregation: Lord, I believe in you because you have given me the gift of faith.

All together:

**We give thanks to God -
For the work of our lives,
For the work of our hands,
For the work of our minds,
For the work of our hearts,
For our work which sheds light in the darkness,
For our work which creates order from chaos,
For our work which builds peace out of hostility,
For our work which helps others,
For our work which empowers others,**

For our work which inspires others,
For our work which builds the Reign of God
Alleluia, Amen

RESPONDING

★ Responding Hymn #825

“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”

Refrain: *Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home. Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.*

1. I looked over Jordan, and what did I see coming for to carry me home? A band of angels coming after me, coming for to carry me home. O, *Refrain*
2. If you get there before I do, coming for to carry me home, tell all my friends I'm coming too, coming for to carry me home. O, *Refrain*
3. The brightest day that ever I saw, coming for to carry me home, when Jesus washed my sins away, coming for to carry me home. O, *Refrain*
4. I'm sometimes up and sometimes down, coming for to carry me home, but still my soul feels heavenly bound, coming for to carry me home. O, *Refrain*

Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People (Finishing with the Lord's Prayer, page 35.
We invite you to use the words which are closest to your heart.)

Our Father/Mother, 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

Reflection Music

Call for the Offering

(We invite you to place your offering in the offering plate at the rear of the sanctuary. You can also give online or by mail. Thank you.)

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Accept these, our gifts, almighty God, as a statement of our faith. May our offering bring goodness and light wherever it is needed. May our communities of faith be bearers of your light. And may we be sources of that same light to the world in all we say and do. Amen.

Children's Sermon

SENDING

Closing Hymn #286 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

1. Breath on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldest do.
2. Breathe on me, Beath of God, until my heart is pure, until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine, until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

Benediction

Postlude

★Please rise in body or spirit as you are able.

Thanks to Allison Cerutti for being our music maker.
Thanks to Chris Fuhrmeister for leading us in worship.

Prayers – Each week we pray for a different person or family in our church. This week please keep Jim Taylor in your prayers. Gracious Lord, we give thanks for him. Hold him in the palm of your hand; let him feel your love. Give him the wisdom and strength to do your will and the faith and courage to face what challenges may arise.

As part of being the connectional Presbyterian Church, we keep in our prayers other ministries usually within the PNNE. This week our prayers are for the Christ Church Presbyterian, Burlington, VT who are in transition.

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Session, 2nd Sunday, after Church

Deacons, 1st Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Outreach, 1st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Book Group, 4th Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Meditation Group, Thursdays, 10 a.m.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

February 8 – Jen Renaud

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES:

February 15 – Lori and Mark Cayia

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We are a Matthew 25 church in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) This means we have three areas of focus to our ministries: **building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.**

First Presbyterian Church, Barre is part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We are members of the Presbytery of Northern New England.

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