

RESPONDING

***Hymn No. #444 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive**

Call for the Offering

We are inspired to be generous by a generous God. We are inspired to give by the greatest of givers. In gratitude to God, let us present our tithes and offerings.

Unison Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

Joys, and Concerns

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer traditional prayer found on p.35 of Glory to God hymnal-Please use Mother in place of Father if that is closer to your heart.

***Closing Hymn No. #442 Just as I Am, without One Please**

***Benediction**

Postlude

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

*Thanks to Alison Cerutti for the beautiful worship music.
Thanks to Roxanne Casadonte for helping us lead in worship this morning.*

Today's liturgy provided by Presbyterian Outlook

Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott

Editor and Publisher of Presbyterian Outlook

**First Presbyterian Church
19 Seminary Street, Barre, Vermont
Welcomes You to Worship
16th Sunday after Pentecost Year A
Sunday September 13, 2026**



We are glad you are here. You are a beloved child of God. Join us as we experience our spiritual journey through Christian community and by living God's love in thought, word, and deed.

First Presbyterian Church of Barre, VT

GATHERING

This service is being recorded for viewing on Facebook and on our website. Please guard your privacy as best you see fit.

Hymns today are from the Glory to God purple hymnal

Abenaki Land acknowledgement, welcome and announcements (see insert), pastor greeting, and visitor cards, opening prayer.

Prelude

Call to Worship (from Psalm 103:1-4)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.
Bless God's holy name. God forgives. God heals.

Gods transforms with steadfast love.
Bless God's holy name.

***Opening Hymn No. #611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

PRAYING FOR RECONCILIATION AND FORGIVENESS

Call to Confession

Before we can hear God's truth spoken in love, we must free ourselves from all that obstructs us from honestly acknowledging our wrongdoing. Let us examine our hearts and confess our sins to God.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love.

(Silent confession of personal sins)

Leader: We ask this in Jesus' name, amen.

Assurance of Pardon (James 5:15-16)

Leader: The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed and restored to God's path of righteousness.

Congregation: **Amen!**

*Congregational response **Hymn No. #582 Glory to God (1st verse)**

***Passing of the Peace** please greet one another with "Peace be with you" and you may respond "And also with you." Forgiveness from Jesus Christ brings peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7)

LISTENING

Scripture Lessons Psalm 103:1-13, Matthew 18:21-35

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God
People: Thanks be to God

Sermon "More About Forgiveness" Rev. Dwight McCormick

Meditation music

Affirmation of faith (From Book of Common Worship)

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.