

**First Presbyterian Church
19 Seminary Street, Barre, Vermont
Welcomes You to Worship
18th Sunday after Pentecost Year A
Sunday September 27, 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, visitor cards, and opening prayer.

Prelude

Why do you come to this place?

We seek the path of righteousness and truth.

Do you come ready to hear and learn giving attention to God's Word?

We come with open hearts and minds seeking to learn from the one whose authority is founded on God's love.

Friends, lend your ears and open your hearts because this is God's house, built by love and sustained by hope, where God seeks to align our work and witness.

***Opening Hymn No. #438 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**

PRAYING FOR RECONCILIATION AND FORGIVENESS

Call to Confession

What burdens your spirit? What regret or hurt do you carry today? Together, let us confess that which does not give us life and take up, instead, the love and grace of God.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, we come before you aware that you know the truth of our hearts before we can utter a word. You know when our good intentions exceed our capacity for gospel living. You know when we embrace the good news of liberation with our lips but don't change our actions. We imprison ourselves with the assumption that you will judge us as mercilessly as we often judge ourselves and one another.

Forgive our shortcomings and the times we have failed to live the words we say. Restore us in the confidence of people who have heard good news and remind us that even when we arrive late, there is still work to be done.

(Silent confession of personal sins)

Leader: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe this good news, in Christ we are new creations. We are forgiven; we are set free; and we are made ready to live the living Word.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

*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)

Prayer for illumination

God of life and light, illumine our hearts and spirits and attune us to the reading and hearing of your word. May our hearing be discerning and may this proclamation be faithful and, in all things, may we approach your word with joy and humility. Amen.

LISTENING

Scripture Lessons Matthew 20:23-32, Philippians 2:1-13

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

Sermon “Arguing Over Authority” Rev. Dwight McCormick

Meditation music

RESPONDING

***Hymn No. #263 All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!**

Call for the Offering

Friends, we are all in this together and it is only together that the work of Christ in this church is done. I welcome us all to prayerfully and joyfully bring our tithes and offerings for the work of the church in the world.

Unison Prayer of Dedication (by Teri McDowell Ott)

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. #735 I Need Thee Every Hour**

Benediction

Go into the world, my friends and fellow disciples, to proclaim, in word and deed, the gospel of Christ. May the love of Christ, the faithfulness of God, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit guide, encourage, and keep us today and every day. And in one voice may all God's children say: **Amen!**

Postlude

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

Thanks to Alison Cerutti for the beautiful worship music.

Thanks to Diane Nichols-Fleming for helping us lead in worship this morning.

Today's liturgy provided by Presbyterian Outlook

Rev. Dr. Robert Wm Lowry

Hymns:

#438 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.
Let the water and the blood
from thy wounded side which flowed
be of sin the double cure,
cleanse from guilt and make me pure.

2 Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands.
Could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone.
Thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
simply to thy cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress,
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when my eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

#263 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

1 All hail the power of Jesus' name!

Let angels prostrate fall;

bring forth the royal diadem,

and crown him Lord of all!

Bring forth the royal diadem,

and crown him Lord of all!

2 Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,

ye ransomed from the fall,

hail him who saves you by his grace,

and crown him Lord of all!

Hail him who saves you by his grace,

and crown him Lord of all!

3 Let every kindred, every tribe

on this terrestrial ball

to him all majesty ascribe,

and crown him Lord of all!

To him all majesty ascribe,

and crown him Lord of all!

4 O that with yonder sacred throng

we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the everlasting song,

and crown him Lord of all!

We'll join the everlasting song,

and crown him Lord of all!

#735 I Need Thee Every Hour

1 I need thee every hour,
most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine
can peace afford.

Refrain:

I need thee, O I need thee,
every hour I need thee!
O bless me now, my Savior--
I come to thee!

2 I need thee every hour;
stay thou near by;
temptations lose their power
when thou art nigh. [Refrain]

3 I need thee every hour;
teach me thy will,
and thy rich promises
in me fulfill. [Refrain]

4 I need thee every hour,
Most Holy One;
O make me thine indeed,
thou blessed Son. [Refrain]