

**First Presbyterian Church
19 Seminary Street, Barre, Vermont**

Welcomes You to Worship
21st Sunday after Pentecost Year A
Sunday October 18th, 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.

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, pastor greeting, visitor cards, and opening prayer.

Prelude

Sing to the Lord a new song! Everyone, even the rocks and trees, sing!

Let us shout out in praise!

God does great things for us. See God's amazing works all around us.

Great is the Lord!

Tell of God's wonders! Share stories of God's glory.

Let us worship the Lord!

*Opening Hymn No. #12 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish but naught changeth thee.

4 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

PRAYING FOR RECONCILIATION AND FORGIVENESS

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

We come to worship because we believe in the goodness of God. We have seen it. We come knowing that we don't always bear that goodness in our lives. We have made mistakes. And so, we confess, knowing that God is good and merciful and kind. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins, first together and then in silent prayer.

(Silent confession of personal sins)

Leader: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear the good news. God loves you. Even in our imperfection, God loves us and won't let us go. Know that you are forgiven and made new, sent forth to love and serve. Alleluia.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
Amen.

***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

Lord, as we come to hear your Word for us, still in us all that distracts us. Open our ears to hear your Word for us, read and proclaimed. And open our hearts to be transformed to be your people, to love and serve with faithful obedience. **Amen.**

LISTENING

Scripture Lessons Exodus 33:12-23 Matthew 22:15-22

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

Sermon

"The only certainties in life are... "

Rev. Dwight McCormick

RESPONDING

Affirmation of faith (from the Confession of 1967)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Call for the offering

We give back in gratitude for all we have been given. All around us are the wonders of God's love and grace. Tucked within us are gifts to be shared, our talents, our interests, our love and service to others. As we come to the time of offering, we are invited to consider how we will respond to the generosity of God, how we will share our time, talents, and treasures with one another and with the world. Let us consider our gifts given in grateful praise.

Prayer of dedication

Generous God, all that we have comes from you. We give back in gratitude. May our gifts become beacons of hope and doors of justice and open arms of love until your kingdom comes. **Amen.**

***Hymn No. #475 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

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. #542 God Be With You 'til we Meet Again**

1 God be with you till we meet again,
by His counsels guide, uphold you,
with His sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain:

Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

2 God be with you till we meet again!
'neath His wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again! [Refrain]

3 God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put His arms unfailing round you;
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]

4 God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threat'ning wave before you;
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]

Benediction

Friends, we cannot stay here. Christ calls us to go out there. Go, be the church in the world. Go, marvel at what God is doing in the midst of this world. Go, love and serve each other as if this were the kingdom of heaven here and now. Go, knowing that God goes with you, before you to lead the way, behind you to uphold you, and always beside you as a friend. **Amen.**

Postlude

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

Thanks to Peggy Hood for the beautiful worship music.

Thanks to Roxanne Casadonte for helping us lead in worship this morning.

Today's liturgy provided by Rae Watson with PCUSA.org

Announcements

Pastor Dwight will be on vacation October 19-November 1st for his final time off for the year. Rev. James Semmelroth-Darnell is available for in person pastoral care emergencies in his absence. He can be reached at 202-560-3246. Please also call Pastor Dwight's church cell to let him know of any emergency-Rev. James will be with you until Dwight's return to town.

Rev. Skye Murray from Dartmouth Children's Hospital will be preaching and leading worship on the 25th, and Rev. Sue McKnight with whom you are familiar will be preaching and leading us in worship on All Saint's Day.

October 15th—Weekly meditation group through Meditation link on our website. Reading is chapter 7 for this week. We are reading *The Tears of Things* by Father Richard Rohr.

October 18th—November 15th—Thanksgiving Food Collection (see last page of bulletin)

October 18—The final week of the book study is at the Barre Congregational Church at 11:15 today. The readings are chapters 15, 16, and the conclusion.

To Keep in Prayer

We pray for people in our congregation each week. This week please pray for **Pam and Roland Cyr**.

Holy Spirit we give you thanks and ask for your continued love and strength to surround Pam and Roland. Please help us as we serve together and seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. Empower them and help them know how much they are loved. **Amen**.

Thank you, God, for the Synod of the Northeast. Thank you that we are a connectional church interdependent on one another and grafted into you, Jesus the True Vine. Continue to guide the Synod and help us give to their ministry as we try to serve God's realm together. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.



Good Samaritan Haven is having an emergency gear drive for unsheltered homelessness. The money raised helps the Outreach ministry led by Osa Busch supply tents, sleeping bags, sanitation supplies, and first aid supplies for people experiencing homelessness. They continue to seek long-term housing solutions-and they need gear to help survive the winter.

Please visit their website to donate: www.goodsamaritanhaven.org/helpful-needs

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Oct 5th Diane Caccavo

Oct 6th Lisa Felch

Oct 9th E.J. Blondin and Cathy Ely

Oct 15th Janet Fuhrmeister

Oct 20th Kathy Adams

Oct 21st Dan Krymkowski

Oct 31st Katherine Paterson

Anniversaries:

Oct 1st Chris and Janet Fuhrmeister

Oct 4th Sylvia and Bruce Mitton

Oct 19th Mike and Rachel Hickory

Oct 31st Neil and Linda Aschnewitz

Thanksgiving Food Collection for Foster Families in Central Vermont



Please join this opportunity to provide side dishes for Thanksgiving dinner for families in Central Vermont who are caring for children in state custody. DCF already has a supplier of turkeys but has requested our help in providing the other parts of a good Thanksgiving meal. We were able to do this successfully last year and hope to see the same level of generosity this year! Please bring in non-perishable items following the schedule listed below. (It is okay to bring in items earlier or later but this gives us a target).

The week after Nov 15, we will pack up the donations and bring them over to the Barre DCF office in the courthouse. They will take it from there to be sure the food gets to the foster families. The Outreach Committee will provide butter when we deliver the donations.

October 18 - canned vegetables (bring your family favorites!)

October 25 - Mashed potato mixes and gravy (can or jars)

November 1 - Stuffing mixes

November 8 - Yams/sweet potatoes

November 15 - Pie fixings - fillings and crust mixes or shells, condensed milk depending on type of pie

With gratitude for your generous hearts and shopping prowess!