

\* Hymn 35 *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

\* Confession of Sin  
**God of all life, we invite you into our lives for a season, forgetting our lives are lived in you. You beckon us, calling for our attention, but we are distracted and busy taking care of other priorities. Remind us, Holy God, that you are the source of our flourishing. You are the living water by which we have been planted. Forgive our neglect. Forgive our unfaithfulness. Focus us on you, your Word, and all that your Spirit provides.**

\* Assurance of Forgiveness

\* Response 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, amen.***

### Proclamation of the Word

Baptism & Children's Message

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: John 17:1-10

Scripture: John 17:13-23

Sermon Dr. Randy Kirby

Moment for Reflection

### Responding to the Word

\* Affirmation of Faith Rev. Lara Musser Gritter  
*(from the Brief Statement of Faith)*

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,**

**and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Minute for Mission Gwynne Shoaf, Gather Team

Celebrations

Offering

Offertory Bell Tower Ringers

*Hymn to Joy*  
arr. Michael Keller

\* Doxology 606  
*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*  
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

\* Prayer of Dedication

### Sending to share the Word

\* Hymn 321 *The Church's One Foundation*

\* Benediction

\* Benediction Response  
*Let There Be Peace on Earth*

Postlude

*Festival Toccata*  
Percy E. Fletcher

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\*Those who are able are invited to stand.  
**Bold** indicates words spoken in unison.

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**The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God, and in honor of Wilson Allen Cook, and in memory of his grandfather, Allen Cook, by Sara, Bob, and Michelle Cook.**

### **Celebrations**

**Birthdays:** Cathy Basinger, Dan Williams, Jack Muth, Amy Shellhorn, Dave Mayberry, Sue Weddington, Deborah Messinger, Glenn Thomason, Melanie Burton, Margaret Almeida

**Anniversaries:** David and Marianna Swaim, Frank and Nancy Eason, Lee and Tricia Johnson, Tom and Anne Maxey

### **Joys and Concerns:**

Malcolm Bullock, Margaret Lewis (Anne Maxey's mother), Acey Worthy, Sharon Whittington, Tricia Johnson, Libby Fowler, Elizabeth Lewis Romska, Walter Broadwell (Elizabeth Calvert's cousin)

### **Continuing Concerns:**

Fred Aggers, Bill Baker, Betty Carli, Charles Hoffman (Sharon Hoffman's brother), Jan Kichefski, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan's mother), John Smith

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### Ministry Area – Deeply Rooted

**Welcome!** We welcome all new and returning visitors to First Pres. We are glad you're here and hope you feel God's presence as you worship and fellowship among this community of believers. Children are always welcome in worship. However, if your little one needs some time to wiggle or play, a nursery is available for children 4 and younger. Please see an usher for more information.

**Worship: Baptism** – This morning, Christopher and Taylor Cook present their son, Wilson Allen Cook, for baptism during the 11:00 service. Wilson was born on August 3, 2023. His grandmother is Michelle Cook, and his great-grandparents are Bob and Sara Cook.

**Worship: Reception for Teresa!** Following each worship service today, please join us for a reception to welcome our new Director of Music Ministries, Teresa de Freitas.

