

Welcome to Second Presbyterian Church

Sharing the grace of God with one another and the world around us.



This church welcomes you no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people; if you are looking for a home, stay here; if you need instruction, learn from us as we learn from you. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.

Please visit our website 2ndpreslou.org to connect with various ministries, or to contact the office for more information about our faith community.

If you are new to us, scan this QR Code to visit our website and learn about our life at Second.



Children of God, welcome home!

*Thank you for silencing mobile phones and other devices
to honor the sanctity of our worship.*

For our worshippers with little ones needing a quiet space during the worship service, there is an infant and caregiver room off the Narthex. If you have any questions, please notify an usher.



For our worshipers who use hearing devices, please be reminded that we have the T-Coil system available. If you have the T-coil feature on your hearing device, and most devices do have that feature, you simply need to switch it to that setting. If you would like a unit, please ask an usher to provide one.

** Please stand if you can do so comfortably.*

Bold type *is sung or read in unison.*

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Voluntary on KINGSFOLD

Robert J. Powell

CALL TO WORSHIP *read responsively*

Christ is the Light of the world. In him there is no darkness at all.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

PRESENTING THE MEANS OF GRACE

*HYMN 757

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

KINGSFOLD

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *read in unison*

God of creation, you know everything about us—our deepest concerns and our greatest hopes. We confess we are often anxious to see results, and lose patience when we cannot see progress. We blame others instead of accepting responsibility, and look for excuses rather than solutions. Forgive us, gracious God. Help us to live in your peace, and to await with patience all for which we hope.

Time for silent prayer.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS *read responsively*

...through the grace of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*RESPONSE HYMN 377 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HOUSTON

Children ages 3 through completed 3rd graders are welcome to come forward; they will be dismissed through the side door for activities following the Peace.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

MEDITATION

Open Thou Mine Eyes

John Rutter

Open thou mine eyes and I shall see:
Incline my heart and I shall desire:
Order my steps and I shall walk
In the ways of thy commandments.
O Lord God, be thou to me a God
And beside thee let there be none else,
No other, naught else with thee.
Vouchsafe to me to worship thee and serve thee
According to thy commandments
In truth of spirit, in reverence of body,
In blessings of lips, in private and in public.

Lancelot Andrewes

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Psalm 8

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:18–25

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Looking Forward to Freedom

Rev. Steve Jester

The Response

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *read in unison*

from The Iona Community

We believe in Jesus Christ, son of the one God, maker and sustainer of earth, sea and sky. Born of Mary's womb, faithful to the God of Abraham and Sarah, Jesus healed the sick, served the poor, and proclaimed Heaven on earth. Condemned by the religious, crucified by the state, He died but transformed even death and rose to life everlasting. He blessed the disciples with His Holy Spirit and sent them forth, east and west, north and south. We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one another as brothers and sisters and to his mission in the world in the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*We welcome you to scan this QR code and visit the Giving page on our website.
You can fulfill your pledges and offer your financial support for the ongoing
ministries of Second Presbyterian Church. Thank you!*



ANTHEM

A Song of Wisdom Charles V. Stanford
Ricky Case, soloist

I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,
and covered the earth like a mist.
I dwelt in high places,
and my throne is in a pillar of cloud.
Alone I compassed the circuit of heaven
and walked the depths of the abyss.
In the waves of the sea and in all the earth,
and over every people and nation I got a possession.
With all these I sought rest.

And I took root in a people that was glorified,
in the portion of the Lord's own inheritance.
I was exalted like a cedar in Libanus,
and as a cypress on the mountains of Hermon.
I was exalted like a palm tree on the sea shore,
and as a fair olive tree in the plain.

And my branches are branches of glory and grace,
and my flowers are the fruit of glory and riches.

Come unto me, ye that are desirous of me,
and ye be filled with my fruits.

For my thoughts are filled from the sea,
and my counsels from the great deep.
And I came out as a stream from a river
I said, I will water my garden
and will water abundantly my garden-beds.
And lo, my stream became a river,
and my river became a sea.

Ecclesiastes 24, excerpts; adapted

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING GRACE

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER *read in unison*

**Our Father, 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.**

The Sending

*HYMN 714

God of the Fertile Fields

ITALIAN HYMN

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Prelude in C-major, BWV 545a

J.S. Bach

*We are called to go out from our worship to share the grace of God with one another and the world.
You are welcome to remain seated for the postlude or exit quietly.*

In Worship Today

PRESENTING THE MEANS OF GRACE

Our life is in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. The Bible is the written witness to Jesus Christ, therefore it is "The Word of Life." Our lives are claimed by God through our baptism. It is God's seal on who we are as the children of God, therefore it is "The Font of Identity." The Table is the center of our home in the Body of Christ, the place where we are welcomed, renewed, and strengthened for the life to which we are called, therefore it is "The Table of Sustenance."

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in memory of Linda Rudloff's brothers, Charles S. Stuart and Robert Stuart, Jr., by Linda & Wayne Rudloff.

THE ROSE IN THE CHANCEL is given in thanksgiving for the birth of Frederic "Freddie" McCracken Davis, Jr., son of Taylor & Mac Davis.

USHERS

Brad Hume, Glen Hume, Gordon Duke, Marilyn Duke, Sudie Mosely, Carol McCarty

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Steve Jester, preacher; Rev. Andrew Bowman, & Rev. Jordan Akin, liturgists;
Phillip Anderton, lay reader

The Sanctuary Choir; Dr. Samuel Libra, Organist & conductor

Evan Vicic, Audiovisual Engineer; Elliott Nichols, Technology Coordinator

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We Lift Up in Prayer

Eric and Kenneth Jaegers and their family on the death of their mother, Pat, 10/9/23.

Gene Smith and his family on the death of his sister, Rose Ann O'Daniel, 9/20/23.

Ellen McCarty and her family on the death of her mother, Donna Gill, 9/14/23.

Nancy Thomas and her family on the death of her sister, Mary Helm Myers, 9/9/23.

Eleanor Maddox, Toby Nutt, and their families on the death of husband and stepfather, Bob Maddox, 9/7/23.

The Ministry Team

Steven P. Jester sjester@2ndpreslou.org	<i>Pastor</i>
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God of the Fertile Fields 714

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Greater awareness has enlarged Christian stewardship to develop new dimensions of concern for people in all parts of the world. Because we believe that it is God's will that the gifts we have received should be shared, this hymn concludes with that phrase from the Lord's Prayer.

757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
 proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
 store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
 we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
 spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
 was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
 calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.