

Grace Presbyterian Church
Fort Wayne, IN – Sept. 20, 2026
17th Sunday After Pentecost



*So the last will be first, and the first will be last.
— Matthew 20:16*

Service Notes: Prayer cards are available in your pews for the sharing of Joys and Concerns. You can give them to Sandy Garcia. We invite you to join in the liturgy by speaking the parts in **BOLD**. *Indicates when to stand in body or spirit.

Worship Leader: Pastor Sandy Garcia – Lay Leader: Cindy Bowers – Children's Message: Rachel Lilly –
Ushers: Stacey Monnier, Katelyn Monnier, & Grace Hochstetler – Tech: John Current & Jen Mahoney –
Counters: Tyler Bowers & Jon Wolf – Pianist: Sue Creager – Choir Director: Tom Callahan.

Prelude — *I Love You, Lord with Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* by Klein

Welcome — Rev. Sandy Garcia

Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord; call upon God's name.

We will sing to God and tell of God's wonderful works.

Remember the God who brought a people out of bondage and provided for them in the wilderness.

God's faithfulness reaches from generation to generation.

Come, whether you arrived early or late, certain or questioning, weary or hopeful.

There is room for us in the grace of God.

Come, let us worship the God whose generosity exceeds our expectations.

Let us worship God with gratitude and joy!

***Opening Hymn — #263 “All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!”**

***Call to Confession —**

Jesus tells us of a God whose generosity exceeds our calculations.

Yet we confess that we often measure ourselves against one another, keeping track of who deserves what and wondering whether someone else has received more than their share. Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us confess our sin together.

***Prayer of Confession —**

Generous God, we confess that your grace sometimes makes us uncomfortable. We compare ourselves with others, keep track of what we have earned, and decide who deserves more and who deserves less. Forgive us when we resent your generosity toward others. Free us from keeping score. Teach us to receive your grace with gratitude and to rejoice when that same grace reaches someone else. Shape us into a people who reflect your generosity, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Time for silent confession

***Assurance of Pardon —**

Hear the good news: God's grace is not measured by our accomplishments, our status, or how long we have been standing in the vineyard. In Jesus Christ, mercy comes to us as gift—freely, generously, abundantly. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Song of Assurance #583 “Glory to God”

***Passing the Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please take a moment to greet your neighbor and others with the peace of Christ.

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Generous God, open our hearts to your Word. When your ways challenge our assumptions, give us ears to listen. When your grace stretches beyond what seems fair, give us hearts large enough to receive it. By your Spirit, teach us your ways and shape us in the likeness of Christ. Amen.

Psalm Reading – Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

p.942

1 Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

2 Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

3 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

4 Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

5 Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,

6 you his servants, the descendants of Abraham, his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.

37 He brought out Israel, laden with silver and gold, and from among their tribes no one faltered.

38 Egypt was glad when they left, because dread of Israel had fallen on them.

39 He spread out a cloud as a covering, and a fire to give light at night.

40 They asked, and he brought them quail; he fed them well with the bread of heaven.

41 He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed like a river in the desert.

42 For he remembered his holy promise given to his servant Abraham.

43 He brought out his people with rejoicing, his chosen ones with shouts of joy;

44 he gave them the lands of the nations, and they fell heir to what others had toiled for—

45 that they might keep his precepts and observe his laws. Praise the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matt. 20:1-16

p.1529

1 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

3 “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ 5 So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. 6 About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

7 “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

8 “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

9 “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. 10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. 11 When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

12 ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

13 “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

16 “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Wanted! Vineyard of Life Workers

***Affirmation of Faith:** *The Apostle’s Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by
the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the
third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and
sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence
he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy
Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the
forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life
everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn of Response — #848 “Trust in God”**

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

Generous God, you provide for your people and remember your promises from generation to generation. We give thanks for the gifts we so easily overlook—for daily bread, for people who love us, for this community of faith, and for grace that comes to us before we could ever earn it.

Generous God, make room in us for grace.

God of compassion, we pray for those who are weary from waiting: those searching for work, those struggling to make ends meet, those who feel forgotten or unseen, and those wondering whether there will be enough. Make us attentive to our neighbors and generous with what you have entrusted to us.

Generous God, make room in us for grace.

God of healing, we pray for those who are ill, grieving, lonely, frightened, or carrying burdens known only to you. Surround them with your presence, and show us how to walk beside one another with tenderness and care.

Generous God, make room in us for grace.

God of justice and peace, we pray for our community, our nation, and our world. Continue to guide us and our leaders with your grace and love.

Generous God, make room in us for grace.

God of the church, root us deeply in your grace and help us grow together. Free us from comparison and competition. Teach us to celebrate the gifts of others and to welcome those who arrive at different times, by different paths, carrying different stories.

Generous God, make room in us for grace.

[Invite prayers from the congregation.]

For all the prayers we carry silently in our hearts...

Holy God, receive the prayers we have spoken and those known only to you. Keep leading us, forgiving us, and teaching us to walk in the way of Christ.

Gathering our prayers into one, we pray as Christ taught us, saying:
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.

Call to Offering

We give not to earn God's favor, but because God's generosity has already found us. In gratitude for all we have received, let us offer our gifts, our lives, and ourselves for God's work in the world.

Offertory —

***Doxology — #606 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

***Prayer of Dedication —**

Let us pray: Generous God, everything we have is a gift of your grace. Receive these offerings and use them to bring hope, healing, and welcome to our neighbors. Teach us to give freely, serve joyfully, and trust in your abundance. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Announcements

***Closing Hymn — #712 “As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought”**

***Charge & Benediction**

Postlude —

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOGA Saturday 26 - 2 PM

Session Meets Next Sunday: If you are responsible for a report, please get it to the office by Wednesday, September 16th.

Sandy Will Be Out of the Office: Sandy will be at a Discerning Leadership Conference August 21st-25th. No worries, she'll be back in time for worship on the 27th.

Prayer Requests

- Prayers of comfort for the Family of Laura Fuller.
- Peace and strength for Bruce Barnet during his cancer treatment.
- Your continued presence and healing for Sue.
- Healing for Jenny, JoAnn's niece, in her cancer treatment.

Birthdays

Landon Seitz - September 20

Mila Wolf - September 21

Steve Lochry - September 23

Tom Callahan - September 25

Todd German - September 27

Anniversaries

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Worship Volunteers for September 27, 2026

Lay Leader – Tyler Bowers

Ushers – Stacey Monnier, Katelyn Monnier, & Grace Hochstetler

Technology – John Current & Jen Mahoney

Counters – Tyler Bowers & Jon Wolf

263 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Descant

4 O that with yon-der sa-cred throng we at his feet may fall!

1 All hail the power of Je-sus' name! Let an-gels pros-trate fall;
 2 Ye cho-sen seed of Is-rael's race, ye ran-somed from the fall,
 3 Let ev-ery kin-dred, ev-ery tribe on this ter-res-trial ball
 4 O that with yon-der sa-cred throng we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 to him all maj-es-ty as-cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev-er-last-ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

Bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 To him all maj-es-ty as-cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev-er-last-ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

This 18th-century text celebrating the sovereignty of Christ has been through several expansions and contractions before reaching its present form. It is set here to the oldest American hymn tune in continuous use since first published in 1793, which was written for it.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–3, Edward Perronet, 1779, 1780; stanzas 2–3, alt. John Rippon, 1787; stanza 4, John Rippon, 1787

MUSIC: Oliver Holden, 1793; desc. Michael E. Young, 1979

Music Desc. © 1979 GIA Publications, Inc.

CORONATION

B.6.B.6.B.6

Trust in God

848

(Psalm 125)

1 Trust in God and you will be shel-tered for e - ter - ni - ty;
 2 Lift your eyes to see the hills, through the a - ges stand-ing still,
 3 In the prom-ised, ho - ly land may the wick-ed nev - er stand;

like a moun-tain, strong and sure, by God's grace you will en - dure.
 wrapped a-round the cit - y walls; so our God sur-rounds us all.
 but where good and kind - ness reign, may the peace of God re - main.

Psalm 125 is one of the songs that would have been sung by Jewish pilgrims going to Jerusalem. As the imagery of this paraphrase suggests, it was probably reserved for use during the final ascent to the city, closing with a prayer for peace wherever God's faithful people dwell.

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009
 MUSIC: Orlando Gibbons, 1623, alt.
 Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin, Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)

SONG 11
 7.7.7.7

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought 712

1 As those of old their first-fruits brought of vine-yard, flock, and field
 2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la-bor, love, and give,
 3 In grat-i-tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to-day,

to God, the giv-er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
 to make our life an of-fer-ing that all may tru-ly live.
 to serve your cause and share your love with all a-long life's way.

so we to-day our first-fruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
 The church of Christ is call-ing us to make the dream come true:
 O God who gave your-self to us in Je-sus Christ your Son,

of farm and mar-ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
 a world re-deemed by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.
 help us to give our-selves each day un-til life's work is done.

This text by a Presbyterian pastor in California expresses the conviction that being a good steward is an essential part of the Christian life, for self-giving is God's own nature. The tune is named for the village in Surrey where the arranger collected this tune in 1903.

TEXT: Frank von Christenson, 1960; alt.
 MUSIC: English folk melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
 Text © 1961, rev. 1989 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

FOREST GREEN
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