We welcome you as we gather in the name of Christ! [Please switch your mobile devices to silent mode.]

Regular Print: Leader **Bold: Congregation** **Asterisk: Please stand if able*

"Faith hangs on to Christ in the dark, it holds to a silent Christ, it holds to a refusing Christ, it holds to a rebuking Christ, and will not let him go." — *C.H. Spurgeon*

✢ WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S WORD ✢

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: *Day By Day* Harold Friedell (1905–1958)

Call to Worship:

Come, all who have strong faith and all who are struggling to believe! Come, you who feel at home in God house and you who wonder whether there is a place for you here!
We come because God's mercy is wider than our understanding,
and Christ's invitation reaches farther than we imagine.
Jesus heard the cry of a mother who refused to give up hope:
He saw her faith and answered her plea with mercy.
Lord, hear our prayers, strengthen our faith,
and teach us to trust your goodness even when we cannot see the way ahead.
God's grace is not ours to guard or ration.
We are called to welcome our neighbors as people loved by God.
Make us a church where strangers find welcome, the weary find hope,
and every person is treated with dignity and compassion.
Come, let us worship the God whose love crosses boundaries,
whose mercy meets us in our need, and whose grace calls us into a larger life.
With open hearts and expectant faith, we worship the Lord who welcomes us all!

Prayer of Adoration

***Opening Hymn:** #511 Come, Behold! The Feast of Heaven LLANFAIR

***Prayer of Confession:**

God of mercy, we confess that we sometimes put limits on your love. We decide too quickly who deserves our attention, whose troubles matter, and who is likely to belong among us. We can be generous toward people who are familiar to us while remaining distant from those whose lives, beliefs, or circumstances we do not understand. We confess that our faith grows impatient when you do not answer as quickly or as clearly as we would like. Forgive our pride, our narrow hearts, and our failure to trust you in difficult times. Thank you for meeting us in Jesus Christ with a mercy greater than our understanding and a love we could never earn. Open our eyes to people we overlook, strengthen us to keep seeking you, and make us a people whose welcome reflects your grace.

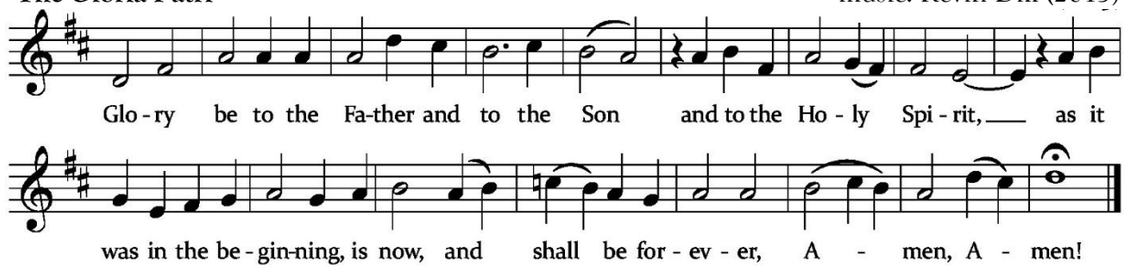
***Silent Confession**

In the quiet now, we offer you our silent confessions from the depths of our hearts…
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon** (from Ephesians 2)

God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us even when we were dead in our sins, made us alive together in Christ.
Friends, believe the good news of the gospels:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***The Gloria Patri** music: Kevin Dill (2015)



✢ WE LISTEN AS THE SCRIPTURES ARE PROCLAIMED ✢

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 10:17–19 *Pew Bible p.209*

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Message for Young Disciples *Pastor Ben*

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21–28 *Pew Bible p.20–21*

Sermon: CRUMBS OF MERCY *The Rev. Benjamin Black*

✢ WE RESPOND IN FAITH AND GRATITUDE ✢

***Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' 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.

Reading of the Necrology

Offertory Anthem: *I Heard a Voice From Heaven* M.J. Gordon (1928–2020)

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, "Write: from henceforth blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."
"Even so," saith the Spirit: "for they rest from their labors." [Revelation 14:13–14]

***Hymn of Thanksgiving:** #711 (v.1) Lord of All Good TOULON

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

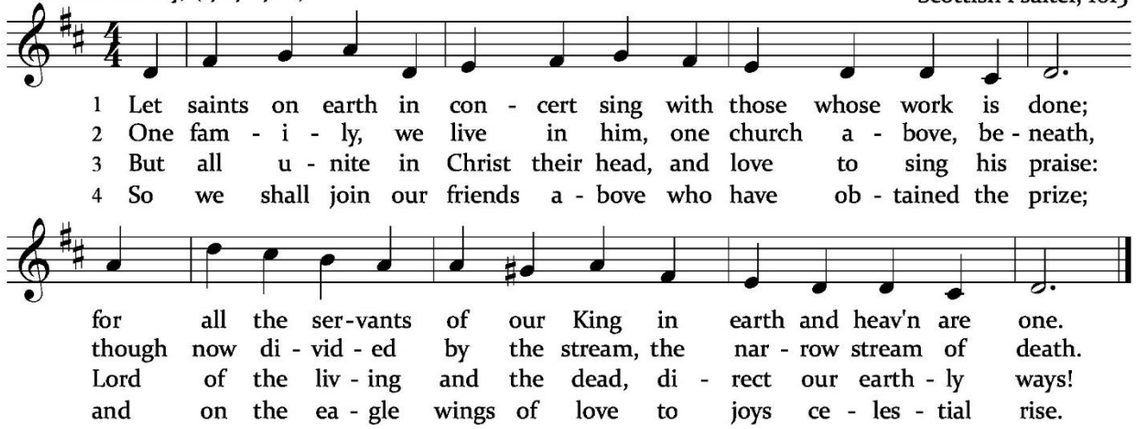
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Celebration of Holy Communion

✢ WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD ✢

***Closing Hymn:** Let Saints On Earth in Concert Sing DUNDEE

Charles Wesley, (1707-1788) Scottish Psalter, 1615



***Benediction**

Postlude: *Fanfare on Psalm 29* Emma Lou Diemer (1927–2024)

First Presbyterian Church

All Saints' Day

Sunday, November 1, 2026 ▪ 10:00 AM

The First Presbyterian Church of Meadville, Pennsylvania ▪ *founded 1800*
www.meadvillefpc.org ▪ 814–333–2161

The Rev. Benjamin Black • *Senior Pastor*
Mary Zahora • *Administrative Assistant*
Kevin Dill • *Director of Music*
vacant • *Custodian*