



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship of God

August 30, 2020

OPENING WORDS

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Here I Am, Lord* Chuck Wilson, Piano and Hamilton Stoddard, Organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord is our shepherd; we will have all that we need; we are released from fear.

All: **The Shepherd guides us in fruitful living, giving us healing and pardon.**

One: Even though difficulties and dangers may lie ahead, we do not need to fear.

All: **God's love and strength are as a rod and staff for us.**

One: God will give us abundantly from God's own love.

All: **Surely this goodness and mercy will be with us all of our days, and we will dwell in God's loving care forevermore. Amen.**

HYMN 84 (Red) *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life: Hear our prayer. There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us from one another and from You. We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow, for fear of admitting our part in the separation, for fear of being rejected when we reach out. You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships, to a wholeness with each other and with You. Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen. (Beth Merrill Neel)

(Silent reflection)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Sing Twice)

Jesus knows the inmost heart; nothing can be hidden.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-18

Riley Berger
Rev. Nick Cheek

SERMON

"Get Behind Me"

Rev. Nick Cheek

ANTHEM *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* Chuck Wilson, Piano and Hamilton Stoddard, Organ

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

A PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Congregation: We pray for all of us as learners, O God. We know that we never stop learning about your love and faithfulness. We thank you, O God our creator, for teaching us through your word and through your son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

HYMN 338 (Red) *He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!*

BENEDICTION

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