PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT

Growing congregations that passionately engage their community to make disciples

PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT T AT WORSHIP
ST. PHILIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 21, 2026

Voluntary *Scherzo* John Cheetham (1939-2024)

Introit *Glory to God (Gloria a Dios)* MACHU-PICHU Peruvian melody

Cantor: ¡Gloria a Dios, gloria a Dios, gloria en los cielos!
All: ¡Gloria a Dios, gloria a Dios, gloria en los cielos!

¡Gloria a Dios, gloria a Dios, gloria a Jesucristo!
¡Gloria a Dios, gloria a Dios, gloria a Jesucristo!

¡Gloria a Dios, gloria a Dios, gloria al Espíritu!
¡Gloria a Dios, gloria a Dios, gloria al Espíritu!

¡A Dios la gloria por siempre!
¡A Dios la gloria por siempre!

¡Aleluya, Amén!
¡Aleluya, Amén!

Anonymous

✞ Call to Worship

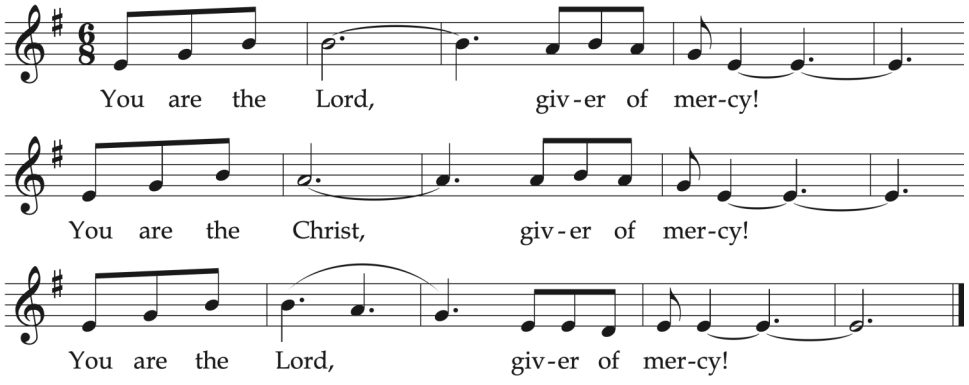
✞ Hymn *(see page 5)* *O God Beyond All Praising* THAXTED

✞ Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess
our failure to be what you created us to be.
You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways,
in wasting your gifts,
in forgetting your love.
By your loving mercy,
help us to live in your light
and abide in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior

silent prayer

Response



TEXT: Traditional liturgical text; revised in *The Worshipbook*, © *1970 The Westminster Press*
MUSIC: Appalachian folk melody; arranged by Richard D. Wetzel, © *1972 The Westminster Press*

WAYFARING STRANGER
9.9.9

Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe the good news. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

Response



The Peace

Peace be with you. **Peace be with all.**

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Psalm 30

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.
O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.
O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger is but for a moment;
his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

As for me, I said in my prosperity,
"I shall never be moved."
By your favor, O Lord,
you had established me as a strong mountain;
you hid your face; I was dismayed.

To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication:
"What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit?
Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?
Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me!
O Lord, be my helper!"

You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Second Reading Acts 9:1-19a, 26-42 N. T. pgs. 127-128

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Kallie Pitcock

silence and stillness

Offering

Offertory *Antiphon* Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)

Let all the world in every corner sing:
My God and King.
The heavens are not too high,
His praise may thither flie;
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow.

Let all the world in every corner sing:
My God and King.
The Church with psalms must shout,
No door can keep them out;
But above all, the heart
Must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in every corner sing:
My God and King.

George Herbert (1593–1633)

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts!
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Breaking of Bread and the Sharing of God's Gifts

Communion Music *Give Me Jesus* arr. Mark Hayes

Oh, when I come to die,
Give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus,
You may have all this world;
Give me Jesus.

Dark midnight was my cry,
Give me Jesus.

Traditional Spiritual

✙ Prayer after Communion

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life.
As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors.
As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry.
As we have been loved, help us to love the world—
because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

✙ Hymn *(see page 6)* *The Beauty of this Sacred Place* PROSPECT

✙ Charge and Blessing

Please be seated* in silence *for the closing voluntary, or kindly depart quietly.

Voluntary *Jesus, meine Freude* ("Jesus, My Joy") BWV 1105 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

SERVING TODAY

Pastors
Rev. Kallie Pitcock | Rev. Omar Rouchon | Rev. John Wurster

Musicians
Sebastian Petzinger & Alex Howe, trumpet | David Holtgrewe, horn | Nolan Hennessey, trombone
Brandon Padilla, tuba | Jesús Pacheco, percussion | Luisana Rivas, cantor | Matthew Dirst, organist
St. Philip Choir | Daniel Boyd, baritone | Justin Langham, director of music

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Prayer of Confession and Prayer after Communion are from the *Book of Common Worship (2018)*, Presbyterian Church (USA).

O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING

THAXTED
Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Setting by Richard Proulx, 1937–2010

Michael Perry, 1942–1996



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The Beauty of this Sacred Place

PROSPECT
Marily Biery (2019)
arr. James Biery



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PC(USA) celebrates 70 years of women clergy

Remembering our pioneering Presbyterian pastors

LOUISVILLE — In 2026, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) celebrates 70 years of women clergy. Twenty years ago, the PC(USA) held anniversary events to celebrate the 50th year of the ordination of clergywomen, 100th anniversary of women deacons and the 75th anniversary of women elders. These events were a result of General Assembly action referred to the Women's Ministries unit who were charged with planning these celebrations.

At the event held at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, the Rev. Margaret Towner, the first woman ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA), was one of the featured preachers. She was quiet, humble and welcoming, characteristics that she undoubtedly employed as she navigated her ministry in 1956 as the first woman to serve in this role in the Presbyterian Church.

Despite the attention and recognition she received at her ordination — her photo was featured in Life magazine and other publications—Towner said she "chose to avoid the limelight and continue my work in the local congregation." No one will ever fully understand her experience. Suffice it to say that she paved the way for many others to follow her. In 2026, Presbyterians celebrate 120 years of women deacons and 95 years of women ruling elders. Sarah Dickson was the first woman ruling elder, and Tillie Paul Tamaree was the first Indigenous woman ruling elder, both ordained in 1930. There have been numerous women deacons over the past 120 years.

The Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries area planned events where the Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, the first African American woman ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament in the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (UPCUSA), was a conference speaker. She was straightforward, funny and a natural-born teacher. She was ordained in 1974 in Catawba Presbytery, which was then an all-Black governing body in the Presbyterian Church.

Decades after her ordination, Witherspoon Press published "African American Presbyterian Clergywomen: The First Twenty-Five Years," compiled by the Rev. Karen Brown and the Rev. Phyllis Felton. In the opening pages, Cannon wrote that she wanted to "make visible our curious invisibility."

In 2011, the ministry area held a Clergywomen's Leadership Institute at The Big Tent in Indianapolis and invited the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell, the first woman to serve as president of a Presbyterian theological seminary, as keynote speaker. Campbell recalled the day that she was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in 1974. "One thing that stuck in my memory was the ordination certificate," she remembered. "San Gabriel Presbytery's stated clerk had to add an 'S' to the printed 'He' on the certificate. Likewise, 'his' was typed over on an IBM Selectric typewriter with 'her.'"

The Rev. Peggy Howland was a frequent guest at the PC(USA)'s Women of Faith Awards breakfast held at the General Assembly, having received the award in 2011. She shared historic photos and articles on her ordination, which were published in the Racial Ethnic Torch magazine. When Howland was ordained two years after Towner in 1958 at Union Church of Bay Ridge in Brooklyn, New York, The New York Times carried the story the next morning. The headline read, "Presbyterian Church Gets Woman Minister."

Another Women of Faith Awards recipient was the Rev. Dr. Janie Spahr, ordained in 1974, two years before her "out" ministry with those in the LGBTQIA+ community. Spahr made headlines throughout her ministry and faced disciplinary proceedings. Her call was not recognized by the denomination. In March of 1993, the Downtown United Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York invited Spahr to become their evangelist to spread the good news by "personing the issue," which then led to the formation of the advocacy organization That All May Freely Serve. Decades later, the 219th G.A. (2010) voted to allow the ordination of LGBTQIA+ Presbyterians. Amendment 10-A was ratified by a majority of presbyteries in 2011.

The world has changed from Towner's world in 1956 — or since 1889, when the Rev. Louisa Woosley was ordained to ministry in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Woosley's ordination was withdrawn, then 24 years later, it was again recognized.

Over the years, many have asked. "Why do you remember the ordination of women? And why do you celebrate the

gifts of women? We are equal now, so why are you lifting this up?" As the saying goes, if we neglect to remember our past, we are doomed to repeat it — or at least risk falling into old, harmful patterns. Yet, if we confront our history, we have opportunities to use lessons learned as a guide for our actions, so we can make positive changes and continue to pave the way for others to authentically serve in the church and the society. And, we celebrate because significant accomplishments are worth celebrating.

Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA) is honoring ministry milestones in the Spring 2026 issue of Horizons magazine. The theme of the spring issue is "Women in Ministry." There are online and print versions published by Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA).

A few important names and dates include:

- The Rev. Rachel Henderlite was the first woman ordained as a minister (1965) in the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (PCUS)
- The Rev. Blanca Estrella Otaño-Rivera was the first Latina woman ordained (1975) as a minister in the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (UPCUSA)
- The Rev. Rebecca Reyes was the first Latina woman ordained as a minister (1979) in the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (PCUS)
- The Rev. Elizabeth Kwon, who transferred her ordination from Japan, was the first Korean-American clergywoman in the Presbyterian Church (1979).
- The Rev. Holly Haile (Smith) Thompson was the first Indigenous woman ordained as a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church, ordained in 1986.

There are other pioneering women whose names are not in record books, including new immigrant women and those in the LGBTQIA+ community who, even today, are becoming the first women of their ethnicities, cultures and genders to be ordained in the geographical areas in the church.

We follow in the footsteps of many named and unnamed women who have steadily and faithfully spread the good news of Jesus Christ, and they have significantly impacted our church, our community and the American culture.

The Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter is author of the 2025-2026 Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study and teaches Presbyterian Heritage and Polity at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Formerly, she was director of Racial Equity and Women's Intercultural Ministries in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

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