

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 13, 2026

THE CHURCH GATHERS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR; ANNOUNCEMENTS; PASSING THE PEACE; PRELUDE

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Responsively

Leader: Jesus said, "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
People: When we face trials and tests for following your way, Lord, keep our hearts steady.
Leader: Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Christ.
People: Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.
All: Let us worship the God who sustains us, defends us, and calls us blessed.

*HYMN # 293 (Blue Hymnal)

This Is My Father's World

Prayer of Blessing: Matthew 5: 1-12

God, bless those who are in poor spirit, who feel empty inside and dread the day. Bless those who mourn, who ache with loss for someone so much loved, and bless the people who are meek, who do not shout or demand to be first in the queue. God, bless the people who are hungry for justice and who cannot wait for everyone to have their rights, and bless all who are merciful, who have learned to forgive even those who hurt them hard. God, bless all who are pure in heart, in whom there is no vengefulness, but only love. Bless the peacemakers, the ones who, by their words and deeds, can change the world. God, bless the persecuted ones, and keep them safe from those who would hurt them. God, so rich in blessings for your children, we rejoice in your promises and in your boundless and transforming grace. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI - Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end. Amen.

A WORD FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER

THE MORNING PRAYERS 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.

WE GIVE THANK OFFERINGS TO GOD

GIVING GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY - Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 15:12-27 (Bible p.1069)

Matthew 5:10 -12 (Bible p. 958)

THE SERMON:

Dr. William D. Coker

"Blessed Are Those Persecuted"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Based on The Beatitudes

We believe true blessedness is not found in the ways of the world, but in the kingdom of God. We believe the poor in spirit rely wholly on the grace of God and those who mourn will be comforted by His unending love. We believe the meek shall inherit the earth, and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be fully satisfied. We believe the merciful will be shown mercy and the pure in heart are shall see God. We believe the peacemakers are the children of God, and those who are persecuted for righteousness are blessed, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Lord, help us to align our hearts with your teachings. Transform us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We commit to living out these truths, trusting that in You, we are truly blessed. Amen.

*HYMN #438 (Blue Hymnal)

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

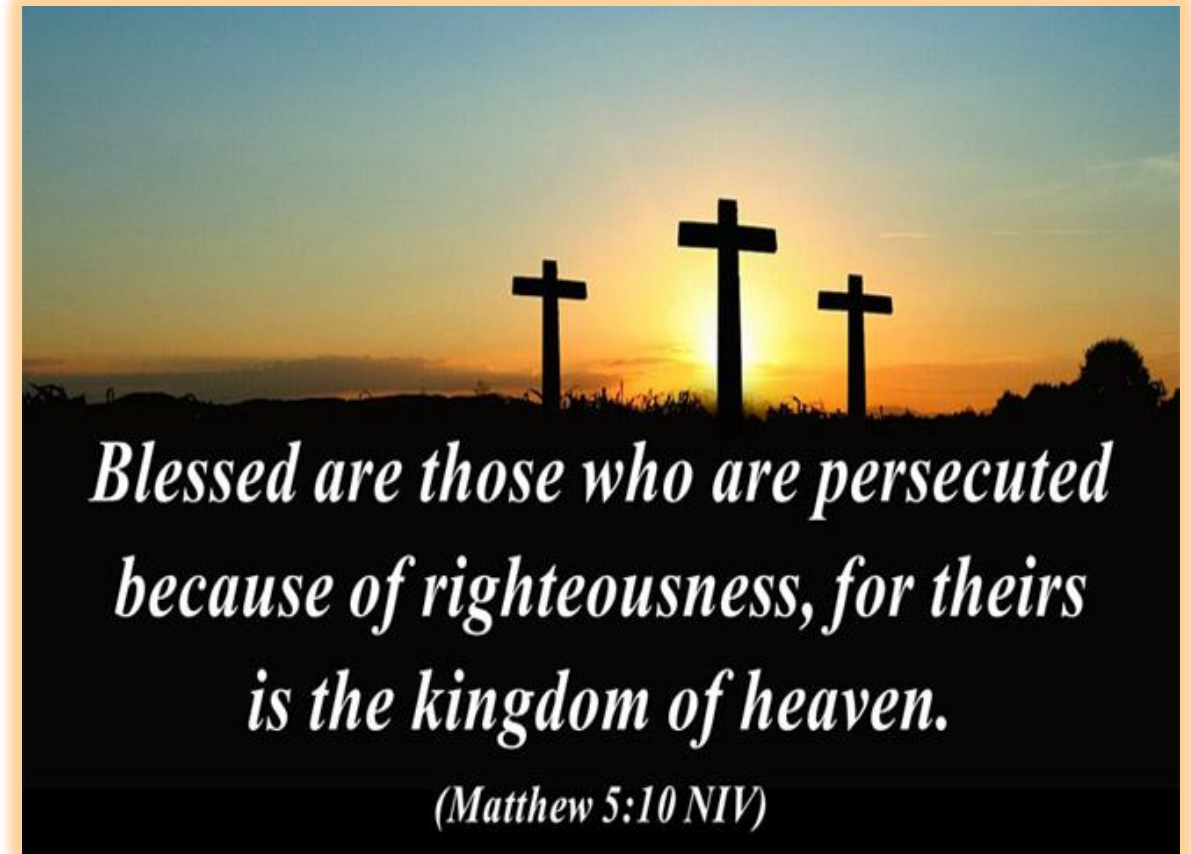
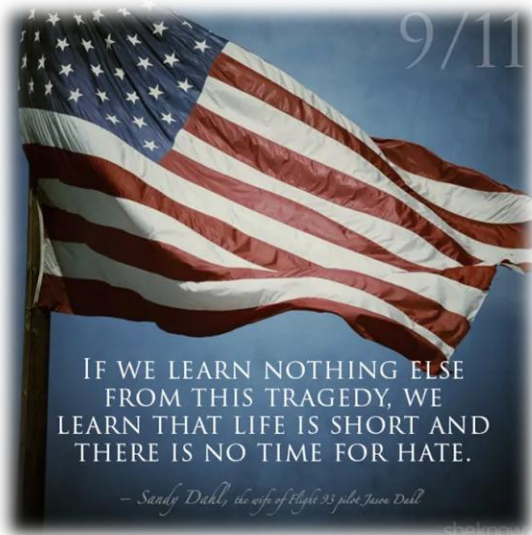
*BENEDICTION

Friends, live out the teachings of Jesus. Be humble in spirit, gentle with others, and quick to show mercy. Have a deep desire to do what is right, a pure heart, and a heart for peace, so you may walk closely with God. Amen

POSTLUDE - (*) We stand as we are able.

Announcements:

1. Welcome Visitors. We're so glad you are here. Please fill out our Welcome/Prayer Requests Card located on the back of the pew and drop it in the Offering Plate. Please feel free to invite your family and friends to come and enjoy our loving and laughing Church family.
2. Our next fellowship luncheon will be September 20th.
3. The ladies will eat at Taco Loco on Thursday, Sept. 17th at 6:30 pm.
4. Prayer List:
 - a. John Barfield - minor health issues
 - b. Marc & Athelyn Buttrill (Cheryl Coker's parents) - minor health issues
 - c. Gail Dekle (the mother of Amyie Mathis) has been diagnosed with Stage 4 nonalcoholic Cirrhosis of the Liver. She is staying with Chad & Amyie.
 - d. Jim Hall (friend of the Cokers) - battling cancer
 - b. Shane Ferraro: (Bowyer's daughter, Peyton's best friend) has finished chemo for Stage 2 colon cancer and is awaiting scans.
 - c. Melissa Hughes - (Niece of Marlene Mathis) is undergoing treatment for Stage 4 metastatic bone cancer.
 - d. Donnie Sumner - several health issues
 - e. Pray for those who have unspoken prayer requests that they find the answers and comfort they need.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A)
"THE CHURCH AT PARK AVE NORTH & FOURTH"

Our Vision: Always Be Christ's Disciples

Our Mission: To share how Jesus and his love are real through all Church activities.

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