

**LORD'S PRAYER**

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as 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.*

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** Thank You, Lord Ensemble

**\*Doxology #607**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*God of the harvest, you are continually planting the seeds of your love in our world and in our lives.  
As we bring our gifts to you, may they be seeds of your grace, peace, and hope, planted deeply in our community. Amen.*

— Sending —

**\*HYMN #370** This Is My Father's World

**\*BLESSING AND CHARGE**

The blessing of the holy, triune God, who was and is and is to come—first and last, beginning and end, Alpha and Omega—be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**  
Go in peace to love the Lord your God with heart and soul and mind and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE** Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise Joshua Allen

*You may sit after the light passes you in the aisle.*



*Serving God,  
Honoring Creation,  
Embracing Differences*



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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HENDERSON, TX**  
  
**21st Sunday after Pentecost  
October 22, 2023**

<https://images.subsplash.com/image.jpg>

(\*) Please rise in body or in spirit  
Bold Italic Letters indicate congregational response

— **Gathering** —  
Simple Gifts

PRELUDE Ensemble  
WELCOME Rev. Michele Goff  
\*CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist: Steve Lowe

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good. *God's steadfast love endures forever.*  
Give thanks to God for the faith we share; *be steadfast in hope through Jesus Christ.*

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

\*HYMN #409 God Is Here! (v 1, 2, 4)

CONFESSION

God has chosen us, but we frequently fail to choose God's will for our lives.

Let us go before God, seeking forgiveness and peace.

*God of justice and truth, you ask us to give to you the things that are yours.*

*If we are honest, we know we hold so much back.*

*We have promised you our obedience, but we often fulfill our own desires first.*

*We have promised you our worship, but we give our attention to idols instead.*

*We have promised to do your work in the world,*

*but we put it last on the list of priorities.*

*Have mercy on us and forgive us.*

*Increase our generosity that we might give freely,*

*grateful for all of the gifts you have given us.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The good news remains true: God has chosen us, forgives us,  
and walks beside us, helping us become imitators of Christ.

*Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Alleluia!*

\*GLORIA PATRI #581

*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. Amen.*

— Word —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST TESTAMENT READING Exodus 33:12-23 Bible p. 77, LG p. 99-100

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Listen to the word of the Lord.

SECOND TESTAMENT READING 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Bible p. 191, LG p. 247-248

Hear God's wisdom for us.

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

*Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-22 Bible p. 23, LG p. 30

Hear God's wisdom for us.

The wisdom of God for the people of God. *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON The Alpha, The Omega, The Way

Rev. Michele Goff

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

— Response —

SOLO O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face Joshua Allen

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

SENTENCES FROM SCRIPTURE

*This is the good news which we have received,  
in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast:  
that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,  
that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day,  
and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter,  
and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.  
We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.  
Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end;  
he is our Lord and our God. Amen.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Loving God, you cause rain to fall on the just and the unjust.

Hear our prayers for your church and world:

for the hungry and the overfed,

*may we have enough;*

for the mourners and the mockers,

*may we laugh together;*

for the victims and the oppressors,

*may we share power wisely;*

for the peacemakers and the warmongers,

*may clear truth and stern love lead us to harmony;*

for the silenced and the propagandists,

*may we speak our own words in truth;*

for the unemployed and the overworked,

*may our mark on this earth be kindly and creative;*

for the troubled and the secure,

*may we live together as wounded healers;*

for the homeless and the pampered,

*may our homes be simple, warm, and welcoming;*

for the vibrant and the dying,

*may we all die to sin and live to love. Amen.*