



PRESTON HOLLOW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9800 PRESTON ROAD • DALLAS, TX • 214.368.6348 • WWW.PHPC.ORG

Trusting that All Belong to God. Living Like We Belong to One Another.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

11 A.M.

Common Character

GATHERING

PRELUDE

How Great Thou Art

arr. Dan Miller

WELCOME & INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Please check in by signing the register found in the pew or by scanning this code with your phone.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please greet one another with “The peace of Christ be with you” or “And also with you.”



INTROIT

Echoes of Joy
Sanctuary Ringers

Joel Raney

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God's power is revealed in vulnerability.

All: The God who comes as a baby in a manger,

One: the God who dies on a cross,

All: the God who appears to the least and the lost,

One: is the God who comes down to us, never waiting for us to ascend to God.

All: Thanks be to our life-giving, ever-present God!

*HYMN 625

O Lord, My God

HOW GREAT THOU ART

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, who meets us where we are, who offers mercy, grace, and life abundant, you stand before each of us, saying “follow me.” Yet too often we do not answer your call. We are afraid of risk and afraid of failure. We are afraid to relinquish control to you, and we are afraid of the unknown. Forgive our faithlessness and the harm it does to your people and your world. Help us to trust fully in your grace, so that we willingly give you our lives and our very selves. Help us to receive your mercy, that we may freely offer mercy to others. We pray in Christ's holy name. Amen.

*WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

All: We are saved by grace through faith.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

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.

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children are welcome to stay in worship or join the Kids Ministry Team in the Chapel for Worship Foundations after the Children's Sermon. They will return before communion.

CONFIRMATION COMMISSIONING

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

SERMON

The Wisdom of Descent

Common Character

Rev. Matthew Ruffner

RESPONDING

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe and confess only one God, who can do all things, is all-wise, all-good, all-just, and all-merciful. We believe that everything required for our salvation has been offered and communicated to us in Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God and God's eternal Son. Jesus Christ clothed himself in our flesh: God and human in one person. We believe that we are illuminated in faith by the unfathomable grace of the Holy Spirit. God imparts this gracious gift. By faith we receive grace to live holy lives in awe and reverence for God, for we receive what the gospel promises when God gives us the Holy Spirit. Faith does not cool our desire for good and holy living, but rather engenders and excites it in us, leading naturally to good works.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.



INVITATION TO OFFERING

To give online, please visit www.phpc.org/give, scan the QR code, or text "PHPC" to 73256. All \$1 bills and all coins will be included in our 'Every Dollar Counts' offering, benefiting To Be Like Me. To learn more about EDC, visit phpc.org/impact.

OFFERTORY

Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace
Sanctuary Choir

Mary McDonald

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith. Wherever there's despair, hope.
Where there's darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy.
Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.

O Lord, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.
Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.

For it is in giving that we receive. For it is by faith that we believe.
For in forgiving, we are forgiven. It is in dying that we are born to eternal life!
Make me an instrument of Thy peace.

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

*HYMN 835

Just a Closer Walk With Thee

CLOSER WALK

*BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*POSTLUDE

Festival Toccata

Percy Fletcher

OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP EXTENDS BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE SANCTUARY in the form of video recording and live streaming. Your presence with us today signifies your consent to the possibility that your image may be included in our media broadcast.

We now offer Auracast™ audio streaming to make our services more accessible for everyone. With Auracast, you can enjoy crystal-clear sound directly to your compatible hearing aids, earbuds, or headphones—no extra equipment needed. To connect with your hearing aids, open your hearing aid app and search for the *Auri-Sanctuary* broadcast. Click on “Auri-Sanctuary” to connect to the broadcast. (Check with your audiologist if you are not certain that your device is equipped with Auracast). We also have assistive listening devices with headphones that may be used by anyone.

Large print Bibles, hymnals, bulletins, and hymn sheets are available at the Atrium entrance to the Sanctuary. Please ask an usher for assistance with any of these items.

Children of all ages are welcome in worship! Worship kits are available on the white cube shelves in the north and south transepts. We also provide a professionally staffed nursery in room S168 (across from the church office) for infants through 36 months.

WORSHIP LEADERS

The preacher today is Rev. Matthew Ruffner. Rev. Caroline Grindrod, Rev. Elizabeth Snyder, Brooklyn Friesen, and Lauren Hood are the liturgists. The organist is Artist-in-Residence Bradley Welch; Steve Jobman, Artistic Director-in-Residence, conducts the Sanctuary Choir. The Sanctuary Ringers are conducted by Stephanie Rhoades, Director of Worship and Music.

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by Beverly Patrick and family in loving memory of Matthew John Patrick.

The flowers in the Columbarium Garden are given by Matt and Beverly Patrick in loving memory of Matthew John Patrick and by Jane Goodell and family in loving memory of Jeff Goodell.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers for Bill and Susan Kilgore and their family on the passing of Bill's mother, Jane Kilgore, on August 24. A private service will be held on October 16 at 10 a.m.

Prayers for Kate DeMoss, Scott Henvey, and their family on the death of their mother, Georgann Rosamond, on September 8. Private service arrangements are pending.



Rev. Matthew Ruffner
Senior Pastor



Rev. Mark Brainerd
Senior Associate Pastor



Rev. Caroline Grindrod
Associate Pastor for Young
Adults, Developing Families, &
Connection



Rev. Elizabeth Snyder
Monie Pastoral Resident



Rev. Caroline Braskamp
Pastoral Associate for
Faith Formation



Rev. Dr. John Roper
Parish Associate

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

Congregational Meeting Today

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for today, September 13, immediately following both worship services. The purpose of the meeting is to receive a report and motion from the Staff Committee and to vote on the installed Pastors' Terms of Call.

Fall Table Groups

Starting September 20

Over 65 people joined a Lent Table Group this past spring, and rumor has it one or two groups are still meeting! Table Groups are a chance to gather for a meal with the same group three times. Together, you'll decide whether to dine out, host at home, or have a picnic. Groups bring together people across ages and stages of life for fellowship, joy, and connection. Fill out the questionnaire using the QR code below, and we'll do our best to match you with a group in your area or on your preferred night.

Enneagram Book Club

Sign Up By September 21

Want to dig deeper into the Enneagram, a faith-based personality framework, while getting to know other church members? You are invited to the Fall Enneagram Book Club. The club(s) will be hosted by PHPC members, meeting weekly for six weeks, starting in late September/early October. Sign up on Realm by September 21 to let us know when and where you can meet, and we will place you in a book club convenient for you! Questions? Contact Rev. Caroline Braskamp at cbraskamp@phpc.org.

Conversation on Epiphanies

September 22, 29 & October 6, 13 | 8 a.m. | Zoom

Ever wonder if God was trying to tell you something? Join Donald Elliott for Epiphanies: Moments When "God Speaks," a four-week interactive conversation exploring the moments that make us pause, wonder, question, and discover meaning. Based on a new book in development by Don, this is more than a book discussion. Come curious, bring your questions, and share your stories as we explore what epiphanies might have to teach us. Sign up using the QR code to receive the Zoom link.

Kirkin' O' the Tartans

Sunday | September 27

Mark your calendars for Kirkin' O' the Tartans on Sunday, September 27! Get ready for a festive day celebrating our Presbyterian heritage with special festivities throughout the day. Stay tuned for more details!

Presbyterian Woman

First Meeting Tomorrow, September 14

The first PW meeting of the year is tomorrow! Stop by our table in the Atrium today to ask questions, register, or pick up your book. You're also welcome to simply join us at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow for refreshments, with the meeting beginning at 10 a.m. in Jubilee Hall. Rev. Matthew Ruffner will teach our first lesson. For more information, contact Dalene Buhl, Co-Moderator, at phpcpw@gmail.com.

Church Season

Sundays | September 20 - November 1 | 5 p.m.

Church Season is a six-week small group for families with young children through 2nd grade to practice faith, build community, and grow together. Each week begins with a casual family dinner at 5 p.m., followed by small groups for parents and activities for children. Babies will be cared for in the nursery. Cost is \$50 per family. We will not meet October 11 due to fall break.

Grand Day Out

Sunday | September 20 | Noon | Jubilee Hall

Following the 11 a.m. worship service, grandparents and grandkids are invited to stay for lunch and a joyful afternoon together! Enjoy activity rotations featuring music, the library, crafts, and more, plus family photos with a photographer on site. Join us for worship and a meaningful day of fun, fellowship, and making memories together.

3-year-old and 3rd Grade Bible Milestone

Sunday | September 20 | 9 & 11 a.m. Services & 10 a.m. in the Chapel

We're excited to celebrate Bible Milestone Sunday on September 20! During worship, our 3-year-olds and 3rd graders will receive their own Bibles, followed by a special Connection Hour to learn how to use and explore them. Please register using the QR code at the bottom so we can have a Bible ready for your child.



Scan here to
register for the
events seen in the
bulletin.