

Presbyterian Church (USA)

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is a mainline Protestant denomination in the United States.

- **Roots:** The PCUSA traces its roots to the 16th-century Reformation in Europe, particularly the teachings of John Calvin.
- **Formation:** Established in 1983 through the merger of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (primarily in the South) and the United Presbyterian Church in the USA (primarily in the North).
- **Note:** The PCUSA is a diverse denomination with a wide range of theological perspectives and social commitments. It has faced significant internal challenges in recent years, including debates on issues such as LGBTQ+ inclusion and the ordination of women.

More info: <https://www.pcusa.org/>.

Core Beliefs:

- **Trinity:** Belief in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as the one God.
- **Scripture:** The Bible as the inspired word of God.
- **Salvation:** Salvation is received through God's grace, not solely through human merit.
- **Reformed Theology:** Emphasizes the sovereignty of God, the depravity of humanity, and the importance of God's grace in salvation.
- **Social Justice:** A strong commitment to social justice and addressing issues such as poverty, inequality, and environmental concerns.

Practices and Rituals:

- **Worship Services:** Traditional worship services often include hymns, prayers, Scripture readings, and sermons.
- **Sacraments:** Baptism and Holy Communion are considered sacraments.
- **Sunday School:** Provides religious education for all ages.
- **Social Justice Advocacy:** Active involvement in social justice issues through advocacy, volunteer work, and community outreach.

Places of Worship:

- **Churches:** Local churches serve as centers of worship, community, and service.

Leadership Structure:

- **Presbyterian Polity:** Governed by a system of elders (presbyters) at various levels.
- **General Assembly:** The highest governing body of the denomination.
- **Sessions:** Governing bodies of individual churches.
- **Presbyteries:** Regional bodies that oversee the work of churches within a specific geographic area.

Main Symbols:

- **Cross:** The cross remains a central symbol of Christian faith.
- **The Flame:** Symbolizing the Holy Spirit and the transformative power of the Gospel.