

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, October 18, 2026

The 21st Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Tommy Clay, Jr.

ACCOLYTES (Bringing in the Light of Christ)

At the beginning of worship, the acolytes carry the light of Christ into the sanctuary. This symbolizes Christ's presence among the gathered people — a reminder that we don't create the light ourselves; God brings it to us.

As the candles are lit, we remember Jesus' words, "*I am the light of the world.*" Worship begins in that light.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Tom Stone-Erdman

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

And also with you!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Together we call our family to worship in this way: (From Psalm 65, vs1-4. NRSVUE)

ALL: Praise is due to you,

O God, in Zion,

and to you shall vows be performed,

² **O you who answer prayer!**

To you all flesh shall come.

³ **When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,**

you forgive our transgressions.

⁴ **Happy are those whom you choose and bring near**

to live in your courts.

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,

your holy temple. ALL: Together let us worship God!

GATHERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: From the north and from the south, from the east and from the west and from every situation, gracious and loving God, we gather in your presence with grateful hearts, rejoicing

in the warmth of your love and the gift of belonging to your family. Welcome each of us as we are, with our joys and burdens, our questions and hopes, knowing that your grace embraces us all. Fill this place with your Holy Spirit, opening our hearts to your Word, our minds to new understanding, and our lives to the needs of our neighbors. Teach us to see Christ in one another, to celebrate the gifts of our differences, and to share your compassion freely and generously. As we worship together, renew our faith, strengthen our friendships, and inspire us to carry your hope, peace, and love into the world. Amen.

HYMN “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” Hymn #81

1 Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God.
God, whose word cannot be broken,
formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

2 Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering,
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner
light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna
which God gives them when they pray.

3 See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever flows, their thirst to assuage?
Grace, so like the Lord the giver,
never fails from age to age.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Leader: Let us pray first together and then silently:

Almighty God, we confess that we have not been the faithful disciples you call us to be. We have not remembered who we are. We are distracted by glittering gold. We are mesmerized

by fame and fortune. We turn a blind eye to systems that perpetuate injustice. We fail to hear the cries for mercy of those who bear unfair burdens. We close our hearts and imagine empathy to be weakness.

Leader: And now in this moment of silence, those sins which are ours alone

Continuing together we say:

ALL: Forgive us Lord. Remind us that we are yours, citizens of the kin-dom of God. Give us courage to be kin-dom builders here and now, showing mercy and grace in a world in deep need

AMEN

GLORIA PATRI “Glory Be to the Father” Hymn #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.”

ANTHEM “Fly Away Medley” Chancel Choir

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE (NRSV UPDATED EDITION)

Exodus	33:12-23	LITURGIST
1 Thessalonians	1 :1-10	LITURGIST
Matthew	22 :15-22	LITURGIST

Exodus 33:12-23

Moses’s Intercession

¹² Moses said to the Lord, “See, you have said to me, ‘Bring up this people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ ¹³ Now if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider, too, that this

nation is your people.” ¹⁴ He said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” ¹⁵ And he said to him, “If your presence will not go, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.”

¹⁷ The Lord said to Moses, “I will also do this thing that you have asked, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” ¹⁸ Moses^[a] said, “Please show me your glory.” ¹⁹ And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The Lord,’^[b] and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live.” ²¹ And the Lord continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; ²³ then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Salutation

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

The Thessalonians' Faith and Example

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word

only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Matthew 22:15-22

The Question about Paying Taxes

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

SERMON:

Terry Albright

Give to God What is God's !!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (with the Lord's Prayer)

Hymnal p.35

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING/OFFERING MUSIC

Tommy Clay, Jr.

DOXOLOGY

Hymn #606

"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

All: In Christ’s name we thank you. Amen

HYMN “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise Hymn #12

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
’tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

ACCOLYTES (Sending the Light of Christ out into the World)

At the end of the service, the acolytes take the flame back out of the sanctuary. This is not extinguishing Christ’s presence — it is sending it.

The light that gathered us now goes ahead of us into the world, where we are called to carry Christ’s love, justice, and compassion into our daily lives.

BLESSING AND CHARGE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE “The Family of God”

I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God,
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family, The Family of God.

POSTLUDE

Tommy Clay, Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (Details on our website, Facebook,
Realm Connect & 386-385-3040.)

Volunteers Needed for Children, Youth, and Adult Ministries These ministries simply cannot thrive without dedicated volunteers. If you feel called to serve, please contact Terry Albright.

This week's prayer : Creator God, receive our gratitude for the rains that nourish the field and forest, garden and pasture, and teach us to cherish the earth entrusted to our care. Strengthen farmers, growers, and all who depend upon the land, and keep first responders and all those who work to protect land and life safe as they protect our communities.

Church Activities

Youth Group-Sunday 9:15am

Small Groups-Sunday 9:15 am; Wed. 4:30 pm.

Presbyterian Women-2nd Tuesday 10:30am.

Social Connections-Thurs.1pm in Zoom Rm.

Quilting Group-Friday's at 10:00 in the Zoom Room.

Outreach Ministries

Shower Ministry-Thurs. from 2-6pm

Meridian/Grace Market Place-Thurs. 2-4pm in the Bartram Rm.

CDC (Chemical Dependency Counseling)-Mon. 8-12; T, W, Sat. 8-6.

Youth Group-every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7pm. Contact Suzie Cornelio for more information.

Barron Rice Music Studio/ Azalea City Children's Chorus, Mondays, 11:00am–12:00pm.

Church Calendar

10/17	Lee Conlee event	All day	WH
10/18	Session to meet following the service @ 11:45 in WH		

Financials YTD August 31st

revenue: \$139,091

expenditures: \$136,394

