

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, October 25, 2026

The 22nd 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: Sherry Mills

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 90, vs1-6. NRSVUE)

**ALL: Lord, you have been our dwelling place^[a]
in all generations.**

**²Before the mountains were brought forth
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

**³You turn us^[b] back to dust
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."**

**⁴For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past
or like a watch in the night.**

**⁵You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;**

**⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.**

ALL: Together let us worship God!

GATHERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: Gracious and loving God, you call us together from many places and circumstances, welcoming each of us into the warmth of your presence and the abundance of your grace. We come with grateful hearts and weary spirits, with joys to celebrate, burdens to share, and hopes yet to be fulfilled. Gather us as one family in Christ, reminding us that all are welcome, all are valued, and all have a place in your loving care.

Fill this gathering with the joy of belonging, the warmth of friendship, and the promise of your steadfast love. May all who enter these doors find open hearts, welcoming smiles, and a community ready to walk together in faith, hope, and love. As your Spirit moves among us, lift our voices in praise, renew our sense of wonder, and remind us that wherever we are on life's journey, there is a place for us here in your family. With joyful hearts, we come together to worship you. Amen.

HYMN

Hymn#41

“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!”

1 O worship the King all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and his love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

2 O tell of his might and sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

3 Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

4 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail.
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

5 O measureless Might, unchangeable Love,
whom angels delight to worship above!
Your ransomed creation, with glory ablaze,
in true adoration shall sing to your praise!

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Leader: Let us pray first together and then silently:

Holy God, we are often good at following rules while neglecting the heart of your commandments. We place ourselves in the congregation of the righteous, but take our seat among the scoffers. We seek approval of our friends, family, and others whose opinions we value, forgetting that our call is to please you, above all. You call us to be holy, but we settle for self-righteousness. You call us to be impartial, but we cannot shed our biases. You call us to love our neighbors, but we have been satisfied to keep them at arm's length.

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

Continuing together we say:

**ALL: Have mercy on us, God. Watch over our ways, redirect our paths, and help us love you with abandon — heart, soul, and mind. Make us instruments of reconciliation and transformation as we seek to follow your law of love, made known to us in Jesus Christ. Amen
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 “Be Still and Know” Chancel Choir

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE (NRSV UPDATED EDITION)

Deuteronomy	34:1-12	LITURGIST
1 Thessalonians	2:1-8	LITURGIST
Matthew	22:34-46	LITURGIST

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Moses Dies and Is Buried in the Land of Moab

34 Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. ⁴The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” ⁵Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. ⁶He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired, and his vigor had not abated. ⁸The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. ⁹Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him, and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses. ¹⁰Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. ¹¹He was unequaled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹²and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays

of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Paul's Ministry in Thessalonica

2 You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ² but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³ For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴ but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals but to please God, who tests our hearts. ⁵ As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, ⁶ nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷ though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle^[a] among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸ So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Matthew 22:34-46

The Greatest Commandment

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

The Question about David's Son

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² “What do you think of the Messiah?^[a] Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit^[b] calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴ ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet” ’? ⁴⁵ “If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

SERMON:

Rev. Charlie Evans

“A Return to Unity”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

Hymn #159

1 O sing a song of Bethlehem,
Of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them
From angels in the air:
The light that shone on Bethlehem
Fills all the world today;
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth
The angels sing alway.

2 O sing a song of Nazareth,
Of sunny days of joy,
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath,
And of the sinless boy:
For now the flow'rs of Nazareth
In ev'ry heart may grow;
Now spreads the fame of his dear name
On all the winds that blow.

3 O sing a song of Galilee,
Of lake and woods and hill,
Of him who walked upon the sea
And bade the waves be still:
For though, like waves on Galilee,
Dark seas of trouble roll,
When faith has heard the Master's word,
Falls peace upon the soul.

4 O sing a song of Calvary,
Its glory and dismay;

Of him who hung upon the tree,
And took our sins away:
For he who died on Calvary
Is risen from the grave,
And Christ, our Lord, by heav'n adored,
Is mighty now to save.

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