

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Sunday, June 21, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

ACCOLYTES (Bringing in the Light)

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.

PRELUDE

Tommy Clay, Jr.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Shaaron Kohl

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

And also with you! (We greet each other in appropriate ways.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: **[Psalm 86, vs 1-6]**

Leader:

**ALL: Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.**

Leader:

**ALL: Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

Leader:

**ALL: Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
listen to my cry of supplication**

ALL: Together let us worship God!

GATHERING PRAYER

All: Lord God, You call each of us, as you once called the first disciples, to leave behind what is familiar and follow you. On this 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, we hear your voice anew, summoning us to lives of faith, service, and love.

Today, we also honor the fathers and father figures in our lives—those who have answered your call to nurture, protect, and guide.

May they be strengthened by your Spirit, encouraged by our gratitude, and blessed with your peace. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” Hymn #275

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing.
Our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he.
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim,
we tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure,
for lo, his doom is sure.
One little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also.
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Leader:

ALL: You send us, God of the Great Commission, but we hedge and hesitate. Forgive our fear and our excuses. We are witnesses of your grace and glory but allow others to silence our praise. We imprison ourselves with doubt and shame and fail to shine your light for all to see.

Leader:

ALL: Have mercy upon us. Forgive us. Shower us with your grace that we might burst forth as the seeds grow, let us be enlivened for service and for love. We pray this in the Holy name of Jesus. AMEN

Leader:

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 "Healing is in Your Hands" Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE (NRSV UPDATED EDITION)

First Reading

Genesis 21:8-21 p.13, OT

Second Reading

Romans 6:1-11 p.119, NT

Gospel Reading

Matthew 10:24-39 p.8, NT

Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away

⁸The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. ¹⁰So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” ¹¹The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹²But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. ¹³As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.” ¹⁴So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

¹⁵When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” ¹⁹Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. ²¹He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Dying and Rising with Christ

6 What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into

death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 10:24-39 p.8, NT

²⁴ “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

Whom to Fear

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.^[a] ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

Not Peace, but a Sword

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,
³⁶ and one's foes will be members of one's own household.
³⁷ "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy
of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not
worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and
follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will
lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON "To Fear or Not to Fear" Terry Albright

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader:

**ALL: In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and
Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (with the Lord's Prayer)

Leader:

**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 AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

"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.”

Leader:

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

HYMN “Christ Is Alive” Hymn #246

1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

3 In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

4 Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

ACCOLYTES (Taking the Light Out)

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 “Because He Lives”

Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future.
And life is worth the living just because He lives

POSTLUDE

Tommy Clay, Jr.

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

This week's prayer : Gracious God, as clouds gather and rain falls, deepen our trust in your providence and care. Provide what the earth requires for growth and renewal, and keep all people safe from danger and harm. We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Church Activities

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

Presbyterian Women-recess until September.

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 a representative for assistance.

CDC (Chemical Dependency Counseling)-Mon. 8-12; Tues. 8-6, Wed. 8-6, Sat. 8-6.

Church Calendar

6-4,15,18 Judy is out of the office.

Financials

2026 Financial Report/Operating Budget through May 31st.

Total Received	Total Spent	Surplus
\$87,374	\$86,282	\$1,092

The Brick Opportunity *Let's get those orders in to build a space rooted in legacy, community, and faith, one brick at a time. (#40)*

For maximum profit all orders must be in by June 28th.

For more details go to our website fpcpalatka.com. **(profits through May \$3,014.63)**