

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Seventh 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: Rob Mattson

This week's prayer is: Faithful Creator, your mercy falls like rain upon the just and the unjust, bringing hope to thirsty fields and weary hearts alike.

Continue to replenish the land with gentle showers, preserve us from flood and storm, and inspire us to cherish and protect the good creation you have called us to tend. Amen.

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: Together we call our family to worship in this way:
(from Psalm 119:105-11)

All: All who walk in shadow, come into the light! God's Word lights the way for us. God has promised to abide with us. So let us commit to walk in God's ways. All who are afflicted, ensnared by the world, come give praise to God. God is the joy of our heart, our sure and certain comfort, come what may! Together let us worship God!

GATHERING PRAYER

Leader:

All: God of history and eternity you call us to be your faithful people. And so we worship you today, in the company of all your people around the world and of the saints who went before us and who now worship you in heaven.

For you have given us your word in the pages of scripture in the person of Christ and in the witness of the church-a wonderful heritage of faith which lights our path through life. Accept our praise for the sake of Jesus, the Son whom you sent to set us free us from sin. Amen.

HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" Hymn #93

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.

2 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3 Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Leader:

ALL: Gracious Creator, you created this world and called it good, and out of it called a pilgrim people, chosen to abide with you and to bear witness to your reality. Yet we, who have been called "Beloved" by you, often find ourselves making peace with what does not give peace. Meet us in our weakness; turn our unwilling eyes upon our unruly hearts. Draw us away from our love of power, our tolerance of injustice, our ignorance of suffering. Drive us towards what is fearfully and wonderfully made, so that we may inspire hope, offer forgiveness, and love our neighbors through faithful

living, according to the way of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

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

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

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 “Our Hope Arise” Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE (NRSV UPDATED EDITION)

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-11 p.522, OT

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:1-13, 16-23 p.11, NT

Isaiah 55:10-11

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Matthew 13:1-13, 16-23

The Parable of the Sower

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some

seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

The Purpose of the Parables

¹⁰ Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ¹³ The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.'

Matthew 13:16-23

¹⁶ "But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

The Parable of the Sower Explained

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Grace Scattered Everyone” Ricky Kirby, CRE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostle’s Creed)

Hymnal p.35

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

ALL: 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

Leader:

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

HYMN

“Seek Ye First”

Hymn #175

See ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek, and you shall find; knock,
and the door shall be opened unto you.
Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia!

You shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia!

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.)

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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

Showers 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.

Church Calendar

7/23 Private event	3:00pm-8:00pm	
		WH & Kitchen
6/27 through 7/23	9:00pm-7:00am	
Heat Wave Band		WH & Basement
7/25 ARK	9:00am-3:00pm	
		Zoom Rm
7/28 through 7/30		
RCMA	8:00am-3:30pm	
		WH & Zoom Rm

Financials

2026 Financial Report/Operating Budget through June 30th.

<u>Total Received</u>	<u>Total Spent</u>	<u>Surplus</u>
\$106,278	\$101,405	\$4,873