

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
July 19, 2026
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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.

PRELUDE

Tommy Clay, Jr.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Liturgist: Mary Kay Payne

This week's prayer is: Creator of heaven and earth, we thank you for the welcome rhythm of afternoon showers; continue to refresh the land until streams are restored, fields are renewed, and the earth is strengthened for the days ahead. Keep all who live, work, and travel beneath these skies safe, and make us faithful stewards of every blessing you place in our care. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!
ALL: And also with you!

CALL TO WORSHIP

**ALL: Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?**
⁸ **If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**
⁹ **If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,**
¹⁰ **even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.**
¹¹ **If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,"**

¹² **even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
Knowing that God is with us always, together let us
worship God.**

GATHERING PRAYER

ALL: Eternal God, author of our life and end of our pilgrimage: guide us by your Word and Spirit amid all perils and temptations, that we may not wander from your way, not stumble in the darkness, but may finish our course in safety and come to our eternal rest in you; through the grace and merit of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

Hymn #837

CONFESSION AND PARDON

ALL: Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God.

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

ALL: Have mercy on us, O God, in your lovingkindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Do not cast us away from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

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

“Hand Me Down My Silver Trumpet”

Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE (NRSV UPDATED EDITION)

First Reading p.19, OT	Genesis	28:10-19a
Second Reading p.120, NT	Romans	8:12-25
Gospel Reading p.11, NT	Matthew	13:24-30, 36-43

Genesis 28:10-19a

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, ¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

¹⁸ So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Romans 8:12-25

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by

the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the

good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON “God’s Perfect Timing” Terry Albright

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostle’s Creed)

Hymnal p.35

ALL: 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

HYMN

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

Hymn #451

1 Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me,
Spirit divine!

2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me,
Spirit divine!

3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me,
Spirit divine!

ACCOLYTES (Taking 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 "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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you for the welcome rhythm of afternoon showers; continue to
refresh the land until streams are restored, fields are renewed,
and the earth is strengthened for the days ahead.
Keep all who live, work, and travel beneath these skies safe,
and make us faithful stewards of every blessing you place in
our care. 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.

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

Church Calendar

6/27 through 7/23

Heat Wave Band	9:00pm-7:00am	entire WH & Basement
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7/25 ARK	9:00am-3:00pm	Zoom Rm
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7/28 through 7/30		
RCMA	8:00am-3:30pm	WH & Zoom Rm