

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Sunday, July 5, 2026
Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

ACCOLYTES

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: Ron Bloor

Family, Session is grateful to announce that **Terry Albright** has been affirmed as the acting **Lead Elder**. This role reflects our commitment to an elder-led church grounded in reverent worship, shared leadership, and compassionate mission. A copy of his resume' is available in the Gathering Room.

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:

ALL: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker. Together let us worship God!

GATHERING PRAYER

Leader:

All: Merciful God, you listen to all our prayers—cries of joy and cries for help, shouts of frustration and speechless awe, wordless weeping and lengthy lament. Some of us wait decades for your response; others sense it immediately. May we come to know your presence, even when you seem absent, and seek your unexpected responses. Embolden us to keep praying through dismay and disappointment, for the Holy Spirit speaks for us when we are unable to pray. Amen.

HYMN “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

Hymn #32

1 I sing the mighty power of God
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command,
and all the stars obey.

2 I sing the goodness of the Lord
who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky!

3 There's not a plant or flower below
but makes thy glories known.
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from thy throne,
while all that borrows life from thee
is ever in thy care,
and everywhere that we can be,
thou, God, art present there.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Leader:

ALL: You shower us with blessings, with chances to know your grace. Still, O Lord, we twist your promises

and pray for blessings we can own. You call us to leave our selfish ways and follow your call to compassion. Still, O Lord, we choose shallow belief over transformative faith. You have told us that your love is enough, that the waters of mercy will not run dry. Still, O Lord, we choose fear instead of trust, hiding behind the illusion that we can survive on our own.

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

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 “Down by the Riverside” Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE (NRSV UPDATED EDITION)

First Reading

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 p.15, OT

Second Reading

Romans 7:15-25 p.120, NT

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 p.9, NT

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 p.15, OT

³⁴So he said, “I am Abraham’s servant. ³⁵The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷My master made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in

whose land I live, ³⁸ but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴² "I came today to the spring and said, 'O Lord, God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³ I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴ and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵ "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷ Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸ Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹ Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸ And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." ⁵⁹ So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. ⁶⁰ And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

"May you, our sister, become
thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession
of the gates of their foes."

⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man, and the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

⁶² Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³ Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field, and, looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴ And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel ⁶⁵ and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶ And the

servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Romans 7:15-25 p.120, NT

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh I am enslaved to the law of sin.

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 p.9, NT

¹⁶ "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

¹⁸ "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

Jesus Thanks His Father

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son

except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Who Will Rescue Me?” Suzie Cornelio, CRE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Hymnal p.35

ALL: As Jesus Christ is God’s assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God’s mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures. We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords — areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him. AMEN

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (with the Lord’s Prayer)

Hymnal p.35

Leader:

ALL: Almighty God, Ruler of all the peoples of the earth, forgive our shortcomings as a nation, purify our hearts to see and love the truth, give wisdom to our leaders, and steadfastness to our people, and bring us at last to that fair city of peace whose foundations are mercy, justice, and goodwill, of which you are the designer and builder; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now, in a moment of silence, we add our prayers:

Leader:

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 AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.”

Leader:

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

THE COMMUNION (1ST SUNDAY EVERY MONTH)

This is the Lord’s table and all are welcome.

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat.

This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

"Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

HYMN

“To God Be the Glory”

Hymn #634

1 To God be the glory; great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory: great things he has done!

2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory: great things he has done!

ACCOLYTES

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 : God of life, as thunderheads gather and showers pass across our communities, let each rainfall be a blessing that replenishes the earth and prepares us for seasons yet to come.

Protect every family, traveler, farmer, and first responder, and make us faithful stewards of the abundant gifts you provide. In Jesus' name we pray. 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

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

6/27 through 7/23

Heat Wave Band 9:00pm-7:00am entire WH & Basement

7/23 private event 3:00pm-8:00pm WH & Kitchen

7/28 through 7/30

RCMA 8:00am-3:30pm WH & Zoom Rm

Financials

2026 Financial Report/Operating Budget through May 31st.

<u>Total Received</u>	<u>Total Spent</u>	<u>Surplus</u>
\$87,374	\$86,282	\$1,092