

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Sunday, August 2, 2026
Eighteenth 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: John Poitevent

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 117 vs 6&7)

**ALL: I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me; hear my words.**

**⁷ Wondrously show your steadfast love,
O savior of those who seek refuge
from their adversaries at your right hand.**

ALL: Together let us worship God!

GATHERING PRAYER

All: God of creation, we give thanks for the goodness of the earth that you made and sustain. Our voices join in praise with all creation: with the sea that roars, the trees that clap their hands, and the birds that sing in joy. Unite us by your Spirit, that we may be signs of your abundant mercy and live in thanksgiving for your grace, as we wait for the completion of your creation in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

HYMN

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

Hymn #8

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm has bound the restless wave,
who bade the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

2 O Savior, whose almighty word
the winds and waves submissive heard,
who walked upon the foaming deep,
and calm amid its rage did sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

3 O Holy Spirit, who did brood
upon the chaos wild and rude,
and bade its angry tumult cease,
and gave, for fierce confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

4 O Trinity of love and power,
all travelers guard in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them wheresoe'er they go;
thus evermore shall rise to thee
glad praise from air and land and sea.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

ALL: Holy God, you have revealed yourself to us in Jesus Christ. Every thing we need to know about you has been shown. Your goodness, mercy, healing and renewal are on full display. But sometimes we do not see what is right before us. Sometimes we miss the miracle. We misunderstand you, and so we misunderstand the world.

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

ALL: Forgive us, we pray. Restore to us the ability to see you as you reveal yourself. Renew within us the capacity to perceive your way in the world, for this life,

and in the life that is to come. We pray it in Jesus' name, and for his sake. 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 "Create in Me, A Clean Heart" Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE (NRSV UPDATED EDITION)

First Reading

Genesis 32:22-31 p.23, OT

Second Reading

Romans 9:1-5 p.121, NT

Gospel Reading

Matthew 14:13-21 p.12, NT

Genesis 32:22-31 p.23, OT

Jacob Wrestles at Peniel

²² The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

Romans 9:1-5 p.121, NT

God's Election of Israel

9 I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— **2** I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. **3** For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. **4** They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; **5** to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Matthew 14:13-21 p.12, NT

Feeding the Five Thousand

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. **14** When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. **15** When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” **16** Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” **17** They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” **18** And he said, “Bring them here to me.” **19** Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. **20** And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. **21** And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON “The Next Faithful Step!” 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

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

THE COMMUNION (1ST SUNDAY EVERY MONTH)

HYMN

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

Hymn #250

1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

2 There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.

From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

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.)

Volunteers Needed for Children & Youth Ministries

Beginning **August 2**, we need **two volunteers each Sunday** to help lead Children's Church. We are also seeking adults willing to support and grow our children's and youth ministries throughout the year. These ministries simply cannot thrive without dedicated volunteers. If you feel called to serve, please contact the church office.

This week's prayer : Gracious God, we thank you for the rain that renews the earth, nourishes the fields, and reminds us of your faithful care; guide us to be wise stewards of your creation and bless those who grow our food with abundant harvests. Protect first responders and all who travel in the storms, keep our communities safe, and continue to send the rain we need according to your gracious will. 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.

All Together Youth Group-every 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 6pm. Starting August 10th. Contact Suzie Cornelio for more information.

Church Calendar

8/4, 8/6 RCMA Rm	8:00am-3:30pm	WH & Zoom
8/22 ARK	9:00am-3:30pm	Zoom Rm
8/31 SMA	4:00pm-8:30pm	WH