

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Sunday, September 13, 2026
Twenty Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

PRELUDE

Tommy Clay, Jr.

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.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Ron Bloor

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

And also with you!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader:

**ALL: The sea looked and fled,
the Jordan turned back;
⁴the mountains leaped like rams,
the hills like lambs.**

Leader:

**ALL: Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
⁸who turned the rock into a pool,
the hard rock into springs of water.**

ALL: Together let us worship God!

GATHERING PRAYER

**All: Loving God, we stand before you, eager to be
restored to full energy
and full capacity to forgive so we might grow in loving
ourselves.**

loving one another, and loving you. Renew us in this hour with full confidence.

We welcome all, you our brothers and sisters in Christ, to this holy gathering. May the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God's will. Let us be mindful of the presence of the Holy Spirit, who gathers us, guides us, and empowers us to live in love and service. AMEN

HYMN "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!" Hymn #41

1 O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

2 O tell of God's might; O sing of God's grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form;
and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

3 The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your power has founded of old;
established it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

4 Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills; it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

ALL: Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it.

**ALL: Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith,
mature in relationship, and be transformed through your
steadfast love. 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

“Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone” Chancel Choir

CHILDRENS CHURCH **Nancy Van Horn/Suzie Cornelio**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE (NRSV UPDATED EDITION)

<i>First Reading</i>	Exodus	14:19-31
<i>Second Reading</i>	Romans	14:1-12
<i>Gospel Reading</i>	Matthew	18:21-35

Exodus 14:19-31

¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea.

The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.”

The Pursuers Drowned

²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Romans 14:1-12

Do Not Judge Another

14 Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Forgiveness

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Weak in Faith!"

Terry Albright

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

ALL: We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are

called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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 "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

Hymn #159

1 O sing a song of Bethlehem,
of shepherds watching there,
and of the news that came to them
from angels in the air.
The light that shone on Bethlehem
fills all the world today.
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth
the angels sing always.

2 O sing a song of Nazareth,
of sunny days of joy;
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath,
and of the sinless boy.
For now the flowers of Nazareth

in every heart may grow.
Now spreads the fame of his dear name
on all the winds that blow.
3 O sing a song of Galilee,
of lake and woods and hill,
of him who walked upon the sea
and bade its waves be still.
For though, like waves on Galilee,
dark seas of trouble roll,
when faith has heard the Master's word,
falls peace upon the soul.

4 O sing a song of Calvary,
its glory and dismay,
of him who hung upon the tree,
and took our sins away.
For he who died on Calvary
is risen from the grave,
and Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored,
is mighty now to save.

ACCOLYTES (Sending 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 Connect & 386-385-3040.)

Volunteers Needed for Children, Youth, and Adult Ministries

These ministries simply cannot thrive without dedicated volunteers. If you feel called to serve, please contact Terry Albright.

This week's prayer: Creator God, receive our gratitude for the rains that nourish the field and forest, garden and pasture, and teach us to cherish the earth entrusted to our care. Strengthen farmers, growers, and all who depend upon the land, and keep first responders and all those who work to protect land and life safe as they protect our communities.

Church Activities

Youth Group-Sunday 9:15am

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

Presbyterian Women-2nd Tuesday 10:30am.

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.

Youth Group-every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7pm. Contact Suzie Cornelio for more information.

Barron Rice Music Studio/ Azalea City Children's Chorus, Mondays, 11:00am-12:00pm.

Church Calendar

9/18

Private Event	10:00am-2:00pm	WH
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9/19

Private Event	All day	WH
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10/2 & 10/3

Wedding	All day	Church/WH
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10/5

Bunco	12:00pm-8:00pm	WH
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10/9 & 10/10

Wedding	All day	Church/WH
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10/17

Lee Conlee event	All day	WH
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Financials YTD August 31st

revenue: \$139,091

expenditures: \$136,394