

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Sunday, September 27, 2026
Twenty Seventh 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: Stephen Crowley

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

**ALL: My people, hear my teaching;
listen to the words of my mouth.**
²**I will open my mouth with a parable;
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—**
³**things we have heard and known,
things our ancestors have told us.**
⁴**We will not hide them from their descendants;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,
his power, and the wonders he has done.**
ALL: Together let us worship God!

GATHERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray together:

**ALL: Gracious and living God, you meet us in
wilderness places, refresh us with your grace, and**

call us together in the love of Christ. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we may worship with humble hearts, listen with open minds, and seek not our own way but the way of Jesus.

Gather us across all that might divide us, and remind us that we belong to you and to one another. Awaken in us compassion for our neighbors, courage to follow where you lead, and gratitude for the grace that sustains us each day. Welcome each of us as we are, shape us into a community of compassion and courage, and send us forth ready to live the faith we proclaim. God in Community, Holy in One, refresh us with your presence. Amen

HYMN “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Hymn #475

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Eternal God, we come before you aware that you know the truth of our hearts before we can utter a

word. You know when our good intentions exceed our capacity for gospel living. You know when we embrace the good news of liberation with our lips but don't change our actions. We imprison ourselves with the assumption that you will judge us as mercilessly as we often judge ourselves and one another.

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

Continuing together we say:

ALL: Forgive our shortcomings and the times we have failed to live the words we say. Restore us in the confidence of people who have heard good news and remind us that even when we arrive late, there is still work to be done. 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 "Rise, Shine, Little Light" Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE (NRSV UPDATED EDITION)

Matthew 21:23-27

LITURGIST

Psalms 78, vs 12-16

LITURGIST

Exodus 17:1-7

Rev. Hedrick

Matthew 21:23-27

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one

question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

Psalm 78:12-16

12 In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

13 He divided the sea and let them pass through it and made the waters stand like a heap.

14 In the daytime he led them with a cloud and all night long with a fiery light.

15 He split rocks open in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

16 He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers 🌊

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water, and they complained against Moses, saying, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

He called the place **Massah** and **Meribah**, because the

Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: *Get Into the Flow* – Rev. Alexandra Hedrick

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

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

HYMN “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling” Hymn #418

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he’s waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain:
“Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home.”
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, “O sinner, come home!”

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]

3 O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]

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

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

Financials YTD August 31st

revenue: \$139,091

expenditures: \$136,394