

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Sunday, September 6, 2026
Twenty Fourth 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: James Browning

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

ALL: Praise the Lord.

Sing to the Lord a new song,

his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.

² Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;

let the people of Zion be glad in their King.

³ Let them praise his name with dancing

and make music to him with timbrel and harp.

⁴ For the Lord takes delight in his people;

he crowns the humble with victory.

⁵ Let his faithful people rejoice in this honor

and sing for joy on their beds.

ALL: Together let us worship God!

GATHERING PRAYER

All: Come now, all who thirst, and drink the water of life. Come now, all who hunger, and be filled with good things. Come now, all who seek, and be warmed by the

fire of love. Christ, the God of heaven, has made his home among us and is one with us. Highest of all creation, he lives among the least. He is near, he is present, and he is welcome. Let us gather in his name, to be renewed in his Spirit, and to be strengthened for his mission. 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 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" Hymn #611

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee;
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Mortals, join the happy chorus
which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

All: Lord God, we have judged others harshly, unfairly and casually. We tend to focus on the sin, brokenness and foibles of others, rather than on the growth and work we are called to. We've made assumptions about what others want and need, robbing them of the freedom to speak for themselves. We've tuned out the voices bold enough to express views that are different from ours. We've relied upon your grace, time and time again, while hastily denying that you are eager to give it not only to us, but to our enemies, also. Help us to see others as you see them; help us to see you with faith and trust. *And now in this moment of silence, those sins which are ours alone.*

ALL: Forgive us for the sinfulness we show outwardly and for the sins which live only in our thoughts. Remind us to forgive, to lift up, and to remember our brothers and sisters whose lives and needs are different from ours. We pray all this in the loving name of your son and our savior, Jesus Christ. 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

"Bread of the World"

Chancel Choir

CHILDRENS CHURCH Pam Browning/Joann Browning

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

(NRSV UPDATED EDITION)

First Reading

Exodus 12:1-14

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:15-20

Exodus 12:1-14

The First Passover Instituted

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² “This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴ If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷ They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire. ¹¹ This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. ¹² I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ “This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

The Gift of Love

13 If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast^[a] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Matthew 18:15-20

Reproving Another Who Sins

¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you,^[a] go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Judge Not.....Forgive Much”
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

Leader:

ALL: Lord, in your mercy and love, hear our prayer.
(REPEATS)

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

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 "For the Beauty of the Earth" Hymn #14

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain:

Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light:

Refrain:

Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:

Refrain:

Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild:

Refrain:

Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

5 For thyself, best gift divine
to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain:

Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

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 & 386-385-3040.)

Volunteers Needed for Children & Youth Ministries

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

This week's prayer : Loving God, we rejoice in the rain that renews the earth and reminds us of our calling to care faithfully for your creation. Bless all who work the land and depend upon its bounty, and surround first responders with strength, wisdom, and safety whenever storms threaten.

Church Activities

Youth Group-Sunday 9:15am (basement-Starting September 13th.)

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
Ages 6–16, Mondays, 11:00am–12:00pm.

Church Calendar

9/18

Private Event	10:00am-2:00pm	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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