



# CHRIST MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sixteenth Sunday after  
Pentecost  
September 13, 2026

Christian Formation  
Celebration Sunday

## GATHERING

Prelude

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

Franz Joseph Hayden  
arranged by Mark Hayes  
Lorenz Publishing Co., 2008

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace (L: Leader; P: People)

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you**

**\*\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist Ashlyn Sowell

L: Teach us, oh Lord, your ways of grace and mercy,

**P: And we will guard every part of them.**

L: Re-mind us, God, that even if only two or three gather ,

**P: You reside among us with your whole self:**

**Creative Wisdom; encouraging Spirit;**

**Christ's body broken and alive again, teaching us and welcoming us to his table.**

L: Guide us into your welcoming love for all people and all that you have made:

**P: Make us live by your righteousness:**

**We join together to worship and learn from you.**

**\*\*Hymn - # 632**

**"People of the Lord"**

## Call to Confession, with Silence for Reflection and Prayer

### Prayer of Confession

L: Holy One, you show us the Way, but often we wander off, enticed by something we see apart from your company, or confident we don't need directions.

1. Sometimes, we are like small children, excited to be welcomed back when you call us.
2. Sometimes we test you, ignoring your call till we become afraid and turn back to you.
3. Sometimes we demand to be cut loose and set free, sure we know the way to peace and joy on our own.
4. Often we lose sight of how much we need your love and guidance.

L: Holy One, Father and Mother of us all, remind us that we are always Your children:

This side of heaven we are never all grown up, and we have much to learn.

**All: Humble us: Teach us to turn our lives around and welcome others as you welcome us.**

**Make us small and your Kingdom of Heaven great.**

**In the name of Jesus, our companion and teacher, we pray, Amen.**

### Declaration of Forgiveness

L: Those who humble themselves like a small child will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. We follow Jesus, who humbled himself even to death on a cross, so that we might learn from him and be saved. In Jesus name, we are welcomed, forgiven, and offered joy and peace.

**All: Trusting in the peace Christ offers, we go forward into new life. Thanks be to God!**

**\*\*Response - # 582**

**"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"**

**1 Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**2 World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

## GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

### Word in Music

**"Lead Me, Guide Me"**

Words and Music by Doris Akers  
Choral Setting by John Carter  
Unichappell Music Inc. 2003

### Psalm for the Day

Psalm 119: 33-40

Liturgist Ashlyn Sowell

L: The Word of the Lord.

**P: Thanks be to God**

Celebration of Christian Formation at Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church (see insert)

Time for All God's Children

Sarah Trodden

*\*Please note that any children who come forward to the chancel will likely be seen on the worship livestream.*

*Children ages preschool—third grade are dismissed to Sunday Experience.*

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist Ashlyn Sowell

Gospel Text for the Day

Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14

Pastor Janna VanderWoude

Sermon

Worth Saving

Pastor Janna VanderWoude

Hymn of Response: # 740

**Lead Me, Guide Me**

Prayers of the People

When you hear "We entrust.... to your care, O God," conclude that segment of the prayer together, saying.  
**"We are your children; hear our prayer."**

## EUCCHARIST—OUR GRATITUDE AND TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISES

Invitation to the Offering

Liturgist Ashlyn Sowell

Offertory

"How Beautiful Upon The Mountains (Isaiah 52:7)"

by Peter Edvinsson

We invite you to use the time of the Offertory to reflect and to pray silently, offering thanks for God's goodness, and commitment of ourselves for declaring that the God who creates also re-creates. making all things new.

**\*\*Doxology- #608**

**"Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

**\*\*Prayer of Dedication and Discipleship**

Liturgist Ashlyn Sowell

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also with you.**

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

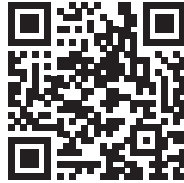
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

"It is truly right and our greatest joy to praise you, Holy God... in the holy life-giving Spirit, now and forever, Amen."

## Breaking of the Bread

## Communion of the People

The cups in the outer rings of the trays contain wine. The rest of the cups contain grape juice. All communion is gluten free and nut free. Click here for the recipe:



*Offer communion to each other, passing the bread and holding it for all to take together:*

*....the Bread of Life, given that we might be holy and whole. **Amen.***

*Then pass the cup among you, holding it for all to take together.*

*... the cup of salvation, poured out in love for the world. **Amen.***

## Prayer after Communion

## SENDING

Hymn – #519

**“You are my Strength When I am Weak”**

Blessing and Charge

Postlude

**“Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho”**

African American Spiritual  
arranged by Kerengy Salas  
Michael Kravchuk, 2020

## Art Attribution

“Sheep Portfolio 7”, Menashe Kadishman, Israel, 1981



There are numerous ways to give to the work of CMPC. Offering plates will be passed through the pews during the offertory for checks or cash to be left today. Cards with a QR code that will direct you to our online giving page are located in the pew racks. Donations can always be mailed to the church at any time using the address on the back page of the bulletin.

Thank you for your support!

Thank you to Neil Danzig for providing audio support this week!

Thank you to Kevin Wilson for operating the sanctuary cameras this week!

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# Texts for the Week

## Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

<sup>2</sup> Then he called a little child over to sit among the disciples, <sup>3</sup> and said, "I assure you that if you don't turn your lives around and become like this little child, you will definitely not enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Those who humble themselves like this little child will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup> Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

<sup>10</sup> "Be careful that you don't look down on one of these little ones. I say to you that their angels in heaven are always looking into the face of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>12</sup> What do you think? If someone had one hundred sheep and one of them wandered off, wouldn't he leave the ninety-nine on the hillsides and go in search for the one that wandered off? <sup>13</sup> If he finds it, I assure you that he is happier about having that one sheep than about the ninety-nine who didn't wander off. <sup>14</sup> In the same way, my Father who is in heaven doesn't want to lose one of these little ones.

## Psalm 119:33-40

- <sup>33</sup> LORD, teach me what your statutes are about,  
and I will guard every part of them.  
<sup>34</sup> Help me understand so I can guard your Instruction  
and keep it with all my heart.  
<sup>35</sup> Lead me on the trail of your commandments  
because that is what I want.  
<sup>36</sup> Turn my heart to your laws,  
not to greedy gain.  
<sup>37</sup> Turn my eyes away from looking at worthless things.  
Make me live by your way.  
<sup>38</sup> Confirm your promise to your servant—  
the promise that is for all those who honor you.  
<sup>39</sup> Remove the insults that I dread  
because your rules are good.  
<sup>40</sup> Look how I desire your precepts!  
Make me live by your righteousness.

# Christian Formation Celebration Sunday



As the “new year” begins, the PC-USA designates a Sunday to recognize the many efforts that go into “forming” us as followers of Jesus. Though we are also formed by our fellowship, our worship, and our service together, today we celebrate all of the activities at Christ Memorial that are dedicated to the forming and renewing of our minds through active learning.

## **Christ Memorial Christian Preschool**

Heather Gallagher, Director

## **Our LOGOS Program**

Laura Jean Graybeal, Director

Wednesday evenings October-March

## **Vacation Bible School**

Heather Gallagher and Laura Jean Graybeal, Co-Directors

Annually, the week following July 4

## **Sunday Experience**

Lindsey Kim & Donna Ueckermann, Coordinators

Children up through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade gather to learn following the Children’s Time in worship.

## **Our Nursery Staff**

Laura Holderman and Tracy Locke-Kitt

Delores McBirney, Coordinator

## **Bible Discovery**

Steve Pettit, Leader

Adult Bible Study Tuesdays at 10 AM September-May.

## **Women’s Bible Study**

Miriam Miller and Barb Petro

Mondays AM Bi-weekly September-June

## **Men’s Prayer Breakfast**

Eric Daniels, Coordinator

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays September-June

## **Our Christian Education Committee**

Debbie O’Neal and Liz Perraud

This committee oversees each of these programs and our Scout charters on behalf of the Session.

## Litany for Leaders

One: We give thanks to God for the gifts these leaders bring to this church community.

**All: We give thanks for each one of you, and your dedication to Christian formation.**

One: God called Moses..... we recall the acts of teaching, discipline, mercy and generosity that shaped others before us, and have shaped us.

**All: Today God calls you in the tradition of these guides in the faith.**

One: Jesus taught us how to care for one another, how to judge one another, how to love one another. We follow in his footsteps as his disciples, showing one another the way of Christ from our first breath to our last.

**All: This community looks to you, our teachers, leaders, guides, to walk with us as we continue along the path of faithfulness in our Lord Jesus Christ.**

One: Friends, as we celebrate God's call on your lives for the benefit of God's people.....

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Friends, God is making a way. Let us rejoice in this good news and go to listen, learn, and love the Lord and one another.

**All: May it be so. Amen.**

## 632

## People of the Lord

(Psalm 78)

Capo 5: (C) (F) (C) (F) (Em) (G) (Em) (G)  
F\* B<sup>b</sup> F\* B<sup>b</sup> Am C Am C

1 Peo - ple of the Lord, lis - ten to my voice.  
2 Tell of God's great deeds. Teach God's lov - ing law  
3 Tell the news till each gen - er - a - tion knows.  
4 May we trust in God, rest in God's strong hand,

(C) (F) (C) (F) (Em) (G) (C) (G) (C)  
F B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> Am C F C F

Hear the an - cient words. Once a - gain re - joice!  
that faith's pre - cious seed in each heart may grow.  
They, in turn, will teach those yet to be born.  
live in God's strong love, fol - low God's com - mands.

Refrain (C) (Em) (Am) (G) (C) (A)  
F Am Dm C F D

What we have heard, what we have known, let our tongues

(F) (C) (Dm) (C) (G) (C) (Em) (Am) (G) (C)  
B<sup>b</sup> F Gm F C F Am Dm C F

tell our sons and daugh - ters the won - ders of our liv - ing God,

\*Stanzas may be sung as a canon.

This paraphrase of the first seven verses of Psalm 78 represents the introduction to a long narrative history, with special emphasis on the mighty acts of God on Israel's behalf. This retelling is also intended to prevent the hearers from repeating their ancestors' mistakes.

# ADORATION

*to Stanzas* Final

(Dm) (G) (A) (Dm) (G) (C) (F) (C) (F) (C)

Gm C D Gm C F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  F

that they may join us in the cho - rus.

The musical score consists of two staves, treble and bass, in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The treble staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the staves. Above the treble staff, chords are indicated in parentheses: (Dm), (G), (A), (Dm), (G), (C), (F), (C), (F), (C). Below the treble staff, the same chords are written in a simplified format: Gm, C, D, Gm, C, F, B-flat, F, B-flat, F. The music concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

## 740 Lead Me, Guide Me

Capo 1: (D) Refrain (A7) (Em)

E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>7 Fm

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you

(A) (D) (A7) (D)

B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>7 E<sup>b</sup>

lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each

(A7) (B7) (Em) (D) (A7) (D)

B<sup>b</sup>7 C7 Fm E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>7 E<sup>b</sup> Fine

day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

(D) (B7) (Em) (A7) (Em)

E<sup>b</sup> C7 Fm B<sup>b</sup>7 Fm

I am weak and I need your strength and power to help me

(A) (D) (D) (D7)

B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>7

o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the dark-ness your

(Em) (D) (A7) (D)

Fm E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>7 E<sup>b</sup> to Refrain

face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This African American gospel hymn can well be understood as an updated adaptation of Psalm 5:8, with the "enemies" of the psalm treated as the pressures and temptations of daily life. As with the psalms, the "I" here is understood to express a shared communal experience.

# You Are My Strength When I Am Weak 519

## You Are My All in All

Capo 5: (C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (C)  
F C Dm7 Am F

*\*F*

You are my strength when I am weak; you are the trea-sure that I

(Dm7) (C) (G7) (C) (G7) (C) (G)  
Gm7 F C7 F C7 F C

seek; you are my all in all. When I fall down, you pick me

(Am7) (Em) (C) (Dm7) (C) (G7) (F) (C)  
Dm7 Am F Gm7 F C7 B<sup>b</sup> F

up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.

(C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (Dm7) (C) (G) (C) (G7)  
F C Dm7 Am Gm7 F C F C7

*\*F*

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

(C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (Dm7) (C) (G7) (F) (C)  
F C Dm7 Am Gm7 F C7 B<sup>b</sup> F

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

*\*May be sung as a canon.*

The expression "all in all," meaning "everything," owes much of its endurance in English usage to its appearance in 1 Corinthians 15:28, though many phrases leading up to it here have parallels in Hebrew Scripture. The second section echoes the song to the Lamb in Revelation 5:12.