



Presbytery of Eastern Virginia
142nd Stated Meeting - July 22, 2025

We gather to bring our whole selves to God in worship - employing our voices in liturgy, prayer and song; engaging our senses through visual symbols and the experiences of taste and touch; and embodying our unity as members of the Body of Christ. We pray that our worship today will inform and enrich us as we meet to do the work that God has given us to do as the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia.
- PEVA Worship Planning Team

Call to Worship (*based on Isaiah 58*)

The Rev. Andrew Whitehead

We come
We come from East and West and North and South
With our docket and hope for your church
Riding in cars and vans
over bridges and through tunnels
We come
To hear Your Word of hope and compassion
To see your light break forth like the dawn
To discern your will for your church
To delight in your healing as it springs up upon the earth
Lord, we call to you and we know you will answer
In our deliberations and decisions
Through our work and worship
Inspire us, correct us, draw us together in unity and love
Change and renew us in the power of your Holy Spirit.
Be glorified in all and through all

Hymn – In Christ There is No East or West (*Glory to God* #317)

Call to Confession

The Rev. Valena Hoy

Prayer of Confession (*based on Isaiah 58*)

Sung response:



Almighty God, we confess that we have often approached you with outward displays of faith, like fasting or attending services, without truly changing our hearts. We have neglected to show mercy to the poor, to feed the hungry, or to help those in need. We have often prioritized our own desires and comfort over the well-being of others, mistaking outward acts for genuine service to you.

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You; Every hour, I need You;
My one defense, my righteousness; Oh God, how I need You.*

We confess that our hearts have been hard, our eyes have been blind, and our ears have been deaf to the cries of the oppressed. We have often been selfish, greedy, and indifferent to the suffering of others.

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You; Every hour, I need You;
My one defense, my righteousness; Oh God, how I need You.*

But we turn to you now, seeking your forgiveness and guidance. Please help us to truly understand the meaning of your call to justice and compassion. May our faith be reflected in our actions, as we choose to undo the straps of injustice, to free the oppressed, and to care for the marginalized.

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You; Every hour, I need You;
My one defense, my righteousness; Oh God, how I need You.*

Forgive us for our hypocrisy and indifference. Help us to be a light in the darkness, to be a voice for the voiceless, to be repairers of the breach, and to truly be a reflection of your love and compassion to those around us. We ask this in your name, O Lord, who calls us to live a life of justice and mercy.

- Silent Confession -

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You; Every hour, I need You;
My one defense, my righteousness; Oh God, how I need You.*

Assurance of Pardon - Isaiah 58:10 – 11

¹⁰ If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Roxie Holder

Mighty God, shout out your Word to us this day. Disrupt our complacency that we may hear your voice anew. Give us understanding, that we would follow in your ways of justice, mercy and faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scripture Readings - Isaiah 58:1-12

Matthew 23:23-24

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayers of Intercession

The Rev. Lyndsey McCall-Gilliam

God, we come before you in brokenness. We seek your face, a face with eyes that see our pain, with ears that hear our cries, with hands that touch our scars and open wounds.

We pray for those who suffer the effects of economic injustice; especially those who are homeless or living without the basic amenities for health and survival.

We pray for those who hunger, especially those who tend the earth and struggle to feed others while sustaining themselves.

We pray for those who have been stripped of clothing and dignity, for the vulnerable who are exploited and trafficked.

We pray for those who are oppressed, for those crushed by predatory lending, for children forced to work.

We pray for people driven from their homes, the many victims of war and civil strife, and all refugees and strangers living in foreign lands.

We pray for the sick and afflicted, especially those who are sick due to lack of access to healthy food, adequate housing, or medical treatments.

We pray for those who are imprisoned, for those who wrestle with guilt, fear and isolation; for relationships that are strained, for futures that seem hopeless.

Lord, help us to hear the voices that cry out to us, and see the eyes that plead with us; may we recognize You in them. Turn your face to those suffering ones, the face of your justice, your truth, and the transformative power of your love. Hear our prayers, God of grace, and help us to fulfill them, working according to your purpose, in peace, justice, and mercy, in all we do; through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Offertory

As we have brought our prayers to God, let us now also bring the gifts of our life and labor to be used in God’s kingdom. The offering that we receive today will go to the Food Bank of the Peninsula and the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia & the Eastern Shore.

Hymn during offertory - For Everyone Born (*Glory to God* #769)

Doxology - (*Glory to God* #608)

Presentation of Gifts/Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Receive, O God, all these gifts for your use.

Usher: We bring money, an offering of the work of our hands and minds.

All: Transform it, transform us that the work may be enough for all.

Usher: We bring prayers, offering our deepest longings for your kingdom to come.

All: Transform them, transform us that our wills may align with yours.

Usher: We bring bread, an offering of the ground on which we stand.

All: Transform it, transform us that the ground may be enough for all.

Usher: We bring wine, an offering of the fruits of the earth that we harvest.

All: Transform it, transform us that the harvest may be enough for all.

All: We bring ourselves, an offering of our time and identities.

Transform us that we may be enough to transform the world. Amen.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Revs. Leigh Gillis and Jimmie Hawkins

Invitation

The Bread of love, a large table, are waiting
The cup, poured out for us, and the Triune God
Who will not come?
Struggles, hardships, tiredness have a place here
So do dreams and hopes
They will break bread together

Equity, a just table, Bread of freedom.
In each embrace, joy
Community!
It is the celebration of people that still want to believe
And that embrace tomorrow renewing their faith.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of odyssey and exodus, we give you thanks and praise
That you are always on the move with your beloved people.
You have walked with us as we have wandered and settled,
Migrated and been trafficked, enslaved and been enslaved.
You have always been with us, behind us and before us,
And there is nowhere we can be apart from your presence.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, and with the faithful in every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

In Jesus you came even closer, flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone,
And here today you offer yourself to us once again
Giving yourself to be broken, that we might be made whole.
In bread and cup, food to restore our flagging energy,
Drink to replenish spent blood, sustenance to keep us on the move.

One night, in an occupied land,
You took bread,
Blessed it,
Broke it,
And offered it to your friends saying,
“Take. Eat. This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

We do this in remembrance of you,
And in solidarity with all whose bodies are
Taken, broken, used, exploited.
In penitence for the ways in which those bodies are broken for us,
For our complicity in receiving the goods they are broken to produce.

That night too, in an occupied land,
You took the cup,
Blessed it,
And offered it to your friends saying,
“This is my blood, poured out for you. A new covenant between God and humanity.
Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

We do this in remembrance of you,
And in solidarity with all whose blood is
Poured out in violence, thickened with thirst,
Poisoned by chemical waste and chemical war.
In penitence for the ways in which their blood is poured out for us,
For our complicity in the sacrifices of the new covenant of global capitalism.

According to his commandment, and in solidarity with brothers and sisters everywhere:
We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit now, we pray.
That these complicated and compromised gifts of bread and cup
May become for us the pure and simple gift of your grace.

Through eating and drinking these elements,
Renew our hearts, minds and souls,
Repair the brokenness of discrimination and social classes,
So that we may be made one in Christ and one another.

Help us grow up to be in the likeness of Christ,
Let everyone who is thirsty find water from your living words.
Let everyone who is hungry find in You the bread of life.
Let everyone who is oppressed find comfort in you.
Let everyone who is in despair find hope in Your promise.

All this we ask through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
And with all who stand before you on earth and in heaven, we worship you, God almighty.
Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours, forever and ever, **AMEN**.

Lord's Prayer

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

We who are many are one body in Christ,
for we all share in the one bread.

We drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for us
and we are thankful.

Communion will be served by intinction. You are invited to come forward down the center aisle in two lines, receive the bread and dip the portion of bread in the cup, then also receive a "prayer block" and return to your pews by the side aisle. If you would like the servers to come to you, please raise your hand.

Song during communion - "Jesus be with Us"

(see facing page)

Prayer after Communion

We give thanks, Jesus, for in the midst of suffering You have given us a way to remember you and to become part of one another, and have given us in this feast a foretaste of the Great Feast of your Kingdom. Help us who have shared Christ's body and received his cup, to be his faithful disciples so that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom, and our love be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending into breakout groups

Swing! ♩ = ♩³♩ **Jesus, Be with Us** *A hymn for Matthew 25 churches in the PC(USA)*

Chords: Eb Cm Fm Bb Eb Eb Cm F7 Bb Ab G7 Cm F7 Fm Bb Eb sus Eb Cm Gm Fm Eb Cm Fm G sus G7 Cm Gm Bb Eb F7 F7 Bb sus Bb7

Leader or all

1 Where there is hun-ger and thirst in the land,
 2 Where there is ha-tred be-cause of our skin,
 3 Where there are val-leys of bones, dry as dust,
 shat-ter the sys-tems of greed.
 break down the walls of our fear.
 build up the bod-y of Christ.
 Je-sus, be with us; make use of our hands.
 Je-sus, be with us to save us from sin.
 Je-sus, be with us, and help us to trust.
 Lift up your great peo-ple in need.
 In love, draw us near.
 Teach us a new way of life.

Text and Tune: David Gambrell, © 2020
 Music arr. Phillip Morgan, © 2020

MATTHEW 25
 Irregular

AFTERNOON LITURGY

Affirmation of Faith – from the Confession of Belhar, 10.7

We believe that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people. God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged. God calls the church to follow God in this: for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly. For God, pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering. God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Commissioning Prayer (*Adapted from The Book of Occasional Services, 1999*)

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind. The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, the grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ. God is calling you to stand by people in the midst of suffering, to witness and strive against injustice, to be repairers of the breach. Show your purpose by answering these questions.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?

I do.

Will you serve God's people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

I will, with God's help.

Let us pray: Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us; and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling. We thank you for leading the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia to this time and place. Establish them in your truth, and guide them by your Holy Spirit, that in your service they may grow in faith, hope and love; that they may be repairers of the breach, and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Brothers and sisters, you are sent forth - as members of the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, as members of your local congregations, as disciples of Jesus Christ - to stand by people in the midst of suffering, to witness and strive against injustice, to be repairers of the breach. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him. Amen.

Song - One Foot/Lead with Love

Refrain: You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love.

Put one foot in front of the other and lead with love.

1. Don't give up hope, you're not alone, don't you give up, keep movin' on.
2. Lift up your eyes, don't you despair, look up ahead, the path is there.
3. I know you're scared, and I'm scared too, but here I am, right next to you.