

Distant Land by John Rutter

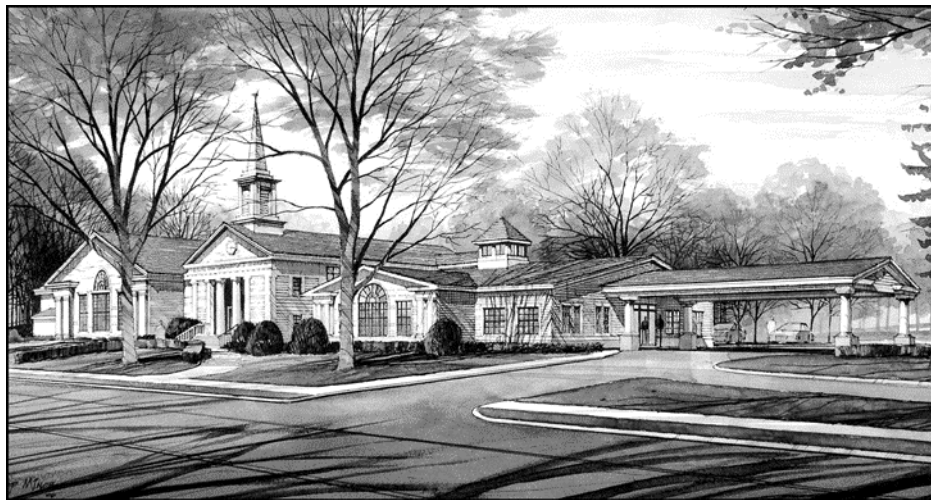
I see a distant land: it shines so clear.
Sometimes it seems so far, sometimes so near.
Come, join together, take the dusty road;
Help one another: share the heavy load.
The journey may be long: no end in sight:
There may be hills to climb, or giants to fight:
But if you'll take my hand,
We'll walk together toward the land
Of freedom, freedom, freedom.

I hear a distant song: it fills the air.
I hear it, deep and strong, rise up in prayer:
'O Lord, we are many; help us to be one.
Heal our divisions: let thy will be done.'
I know the time will come when war must cease:
A time of truth and love, a time of peace.
The people cry, 'How long?
Till all our world can join the song
Of freedom, freedom.'

I touch a distant hand and feel its glow,
The hand I hoped was there: at last I know.
Swords into ploughshares: can it all be true?
Friends out of strangers: start with me and you.
I see another time, another place
Where we can all be one, one human race.
The walls will melt away,
We'll come together on the day
Of freedom, freedom, freedom.



***A thriving faith community
engaged in compassionate service.***



September 28, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Live Streaming on Facebook plus On Demand on YouTube

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The Staff of Orchard Park Presbyterian Church

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Order of Service

*Please rise in body or spirit

Prelude

Ave Maria

Bach/Gounod, arr. Setchell

Chime Intonation

Greetings and Announcements

***Call to Worship (Psalm 146:1, 2, 5)**

Leader: Praise the Lord

People: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Leader: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

People: I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Leader: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

ALL: Whose help is in the name of the Lord.

***Opening Hymn #386**

Come, Worship God

***Invitation to Confession**

Leader: Let us now turn to God, our loving Creator, as we confess our need for healing and strength.

***Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

O God, we confess that amid our quest for comfort, security, and fulfillment, we often fail to be aware of those around us, our neighbors, the lonely, the sad, the sick, the hungry. We acknowledge our preoccupation with our own agendas. Give us kind and generous hearts, give us greater sensitivity to the needs of our neighbors, assured that in caring for others, we are embracing you. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Leader: Having been reconciled to God in Jesus Christ, let us now share the signs of that reconciliation with one another. The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you. (Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you saying "Peace be with you".)

Children's Time

Anthem

Distant Land
Sanctuary Choir

John Rutter

Scripture Reading

Amos 6:1, 4-7; O. T. pg. 854
Luke 16:19-21; N. T. pg. 79

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Now let us pray the prayer that the Lord Jesus taught us saying:

People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Prayer Response

Amen

Dietsch

Sanctuary Choir

The Offering

Offertory

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Edwards & Woods

***Doxology #606**

(Melody)

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

Prayer of Dedication

***Closing Hymn #753**

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

***Affirmation of Faith (Unison)**

**When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers,
When the thirsty water give unto us all,
When the crippled in their weakness strengthen others,
When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,
When they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,
When we love though hate at times seems all around us,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.**

- Jose' Antonio Oliva, Miguel Manzano (1970), trans. George Lockwood (1980)

***Benediction**

Postlude

The Clarion Call

Lani Smith

WELCOME! We are glad you have joined us to worship God. If you are a visitor, we invite you to introduce yourself to our Deacon of the Day, Griff Esslinger, who will be available after worship.

The **LITURGIST** today is Lynn Morgan. The **USHERS/GREETERS** today are the Eugene Family; Mario, Dorcas, Mike, Dave, Molly and Joy.

The **FLOWERS** on the Communion Table are given by Ginnie Sprague in memory of Ed Sprague.

Please sign the **FRIENDSHIP PAD** as it makes its way down your row. If you are a visitor or have recently changed your address, please include this and any other information you wish to share.

The **PRAYER BOARD** is located in the Reception Room at the name tag table. You are invited to use a slip of paper to write or draw your prayer and clip it to the board. The Prayer Board will be brought into worship; however, the prayers will not be read aloud or shared. This is a unique and special opportunity for children and adults to be able to express their joys and/or concerns.

THREE WAYS TO WORSHIP! In Person, live streamed at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and then the service (which is being recorded as we worship in person) will be available Sunday afternoons on the OPPC You Tube channel which can be accessed directly from You Tube or our webpage: www.oppchurch.org. **Please be aware that the worship service is being recorded as well as live streamed and will be broadcast via the internet.**

WE WELCOME KIDS IN WORSHIP as together we are the whole people of God! Worship Bags are available in the Reception Room at the CE Table. The **NURSERY** will be staffed **AFTER Children's Time** for infants through three years old. **PLAY & PRAY** for kids 4 years old through first grade also begins **AFTER Children's Time**. Volunteers will lead the children out to their respective classrooms and remain with the kids until after worship is over. Please pick up your child from the classroom so the teachers can also be a part of Coffee Hour.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY this year is **OCTOBER 5** and OPPC is excited to be a "stop" on the Network of Religious Community's **TOUR OF FAITHS!** Because Christ's Table is open to everyone this is a great opportunity for us to welcome folks of different faiths to have a better understanding of why and how Christians around the globe celebrate World Communion. This is also an excellent opportunity for **OPPC MEMBERS/FRIENDS** to invite their neighbors, friends or family to the table. We will also have our "Breads & Spreads" Reception after the 10:30 worship service.

Thank you to everyone who brought sandwiches last week! The Angelbeck's took a total of 80 sandwiches to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy. **The next SANDWICH SUNDAY will be October 19.**

Calling all ELDERS AND DEACONS of Orchard Park Presbyterian Church—whether currently serving or not! Join us in the sanctuary on **Saturday, October 4, 2025 at 9:00 AM** for a transformative Leadership Retreat focused on shaping the future of OPPC. This important gathering will explore strategic visioning, spiritual leadership, and the next chapter of our church's mission. Don't miss this opportunity to connect, reflect, and lead with purpose. **Please call the church office** if you plan to attend at 716-662-9348.

If you are interested in signing up or being a "Sponsor on the Spot" for **OPPC's FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN** Mobile Pack event on Saturday, October 18 from Noon til 2:00 pm; please speak to the Mission Team member at the table in the Reception room after worship.

Are you interested in participating in a Group Faith Project connecting prayer with social justice? Join Pastor Hughes for this **Group Faith Project** presented by Niagara University. Talk to Pastor Hughes for more information.

THE OFFERING is one way of many ways for us to respond to God. Monetary gifts to support the ministry of OPPC are greatly appreciated. **Secure online giving is now available. Scan the QR Code with your cell phone and you will be directed to our Online Giving Site. You can also give by Text as well: 844-980-1625, enter your dollar amount and hit enter.**



Do you give online to OPPC? If so, be sure to check out the "*I give online*" cards available at the Name Tag Table on Sunday mornings! Pick up one of the cards and when the offering plate goes around place your "*I give online*" card in as an act of worship. If you would like to learn more about online giving, [contact Jessica Merry our Business Manager](#).