

OAKLAND AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service for the Lord's Day
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026

421 Oakland Avenue
Rock Hill, SC 29730

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Office Hours: Mon.–Fri., 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

For after-hours emergency contact, please call: (803)329-6276

The asterisk (*) is an invitation to please stand as you are able.

CHIMING OF THE HOURⁱ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey E. Bryan

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING SONG #606ⁱⁱ

OLD HUNDREDTH

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.

*CALL TO WORSHIPⁱⁱⁱ

Rev. Letarshia C. Robinson

James 1:17, Romans 11:36

One: Every generous act of giving,
with every perfect gift,
is from above,
coming down from the Father of lights,
with whom there is no variation
or shadow due to change.

All: The Most High God
is the source, the guide, and the goal of all that is.

One: To God be the glory, forever.

All: Amen. Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN #663

Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Orthodox “Jesus Prayer”^{iv}

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

(silent, individual prayers of confession)

... in Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

***GLORIA PATRI #581**

“Glory Be to the Father”

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, amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION^v

EPISTLE READING

Romans 13:8-10

Dorsey Rushing

One: Owe no one anything, except to love one another,

All: for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

One: The commandments,

**All: “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder;
you shall not steal; you shall not covet,”**

One: and any other commandment, are summed up in this word,

All: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

One: Love does no wrong to a neighbor;

All: therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Keep God's Light

Mark Patterson

Keep God's light before you; keep God's truth beside you.
Keep God's hope to guide you everywhere you go.
Keep God's peace within you; feel God's strength defend you;
Let God's love begin to fill your thirsty soul.
Hold on in times of sorrow; hold on through days of despair;
Even in the darkest valley God will always be there.
Look now to days of gladness; God's light still shines the way,
Never fading, never failing, teaching us as we pray.

CHILDREN'S TIME

The nursery is available for birth to three-year-olds, in Oakland Hall. Following the Children's Time, children (4-year-olds - 1st graders) are invited to go with their leaders to Kids' Kirk (Scottish for "church"). They may be picked up in the Chapel. 2nd through 5th graders are invited to remain in worship with their families.

*HYMN #203

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:15-20

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, 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."

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Resolving Conflicts”

ANTHEM^{vi}

I’ve Got Peace Like a River
Revelation Ringers

Sandra Eithun

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles’ Creed

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 on 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 THE PEOPLE & THE 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.

OFFERING

The first Sunday of each month, the loose offering goes into the Compassionate Care Fund. This fund is used to assist those in need of financial aid. You may give your gifts to God during the offering by texting OAPC to 73256, through the Church Life mobile app, by mail, online, or in the office.

*OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY #300**

We Are One in the Spirit, v4

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN #634**

To God Be the Glory

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Welcome Visitors

We are glad you are here! We would love to meet you! There is an information table in the Welcome Center. There you can have questions answered, receive information packets, or sign up for church newsletter, if so desired.

SESSION

Elders, the leadership of the church.

Committee	Chair	Vice Chair
Clerk / Nominating	Jeanne Pearson	Stephen Price
Congregational Care	Debra Hess	Diane Murphy
Faith Formation	Meredith Neely	Becky Little
Fellowship	Jim Armour	Gloria Jones
Finance	Paul Lee	Gary Brannan
Mission	Sue Williams	Kim Keel
Personnel	Susan Van Zile	Erin Hamel
Property	Dennis Haire	J. Robert Hyman
Worship	Lucinda Sutton	Brittany Morgan

DIACONATE

Deacons, the caring arm of the church.

Ellen Barnard	Bradley Brown	Becky McGinnis
Robin Huffmon	Tony Jones	Katrina Newberry
Hall Rogers	Grace Lewis	Mary Scheper
Sally Shive	Keith Morton	Sandra Thomas
Robin Williams	Karen Morton	Kathy Wright



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Bill Bradford*	Alice Lavender	Becca Robinson
Jo Grier	Cindy Mayfield*	Jane Turner*
Caroline Hasselle	Clarkson McDow	Kim Wasson*
Sarah Lynn Hayes*	Mary Ann McDow	Sue Williams
Stephanie Hyatt*	Ann McKenzie	
Gloria Jones	Robin Perry*	*Stephen Leaders

ⁱ The operative word in Presbyterian worship is freedom. As long as we have scripture, proclamation, and prayer, we have the freedom to be as formal or spontaneous as we wish. Presbyterian worship services center on the Word of God. Most Presbyterian services follow a logical progression: Gathering, Word, Response, and Sending. We gather around the Word, we receive the Word read and proclaimed, we respond to the Word with prayer, sacraments, and other actions, and the Word sends us out into the world.

ⁱⁱ For around 350 years, Presbyterians in North America did not use bulletins or a pre-determined order of worship. All prayers were improvised, and pastors were judged by their ability to improvise. In 1906, the “Northern Presbyterian Church” published a *Book of Common Worship*, much in line with the Church of Scotland’s worship resource. Because of our commitment to freedom, Presbyterian worship resources do not demand conformity, they make suggestions. The 1906 *Book* suggested every service begin with the Doxology. The latest *Book* was published in 2018. Pastor Jeff’s favorite is from 1993.

ⁱⁱⁱ Theologically, there is never a time when we are not worshipping God. All of life is worship. Even so, if one had to pinpoint the exact moment when a worship service begins, it is the Call to Worship. Everything is worship, but technically, what we do before the Call to Worship is “Gathering” or “Preparation.” When a service has a musical Prelude, it is a prelude (run-up, introduction) to worship. Individuals have the freedom to prepare their heart for worship as they see fit. Some choose silent prayer. Some choose fellowship. Neither is right or wrong. Some arrive after the Call to Worship, and that’s okay too. This is a house of grace. God calls us to worship; God calls us to worship through the Word of God. There are exceptions, and we have the freedom to be creative, but normally the Call to Worship is from scripture.

^{iv} This prayer originated in the Egyptian desert in the fifth century and has been central to individual spirituality in the Orthodox tradition ever since. Orthodox practice is to say the “Jesus Prayer” repeatedly for a long period of time. The repetition is designed to elevate the heart to contemplation.

^v A Prayer for Illumination is a very Presbyterian thing. We do not presume to understand God’s Word on our own. We need the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit shines light on the scripture, illuminates the meaning, and gifts us with understanding. Technically, the Prayer for Illumination begins the “Proclamation” portion of the worship service.

^{vi} The *Book of Common Worship* suggests a musical response to the Word read and proclaimed before the Affirmation of Faith. This begins the “Response” portion of the service. Hymns, anthems, and spirituals are all appropriate.