A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
The Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

August 21, 2022
8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.
Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING . . .

The Prelude
Trio for Flute, Oboe, and Piano, mvt 2, Andante Semplice
Tina Christie, flute  Brendan Shirk, oboe

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

The Call To Worship

The Prayer of Adoration
Blessed are those whose strength is in You, O God, of hosts, in whose hearts are highways to Your eternal dominion. A day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere, and You withhold nothing from those who walk uprightly. We shall dwell as doorkeepers in Your heavenly household, there to give You the honor and glory that is due Your Name. Praise be to You, the One Eternal God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The Hymn 275
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing. Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.

His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God’s own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he, Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same, and he must with the battle.

And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us. The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him. His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth. The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also. The body they may kill; God’s truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

*The Prayer of Confession
God of Life, You come to us as a consuming fire, and the One Who has consecrated us before time. You promise us a kingdom that cannot be shaken and call us to serve You with praise and thanksgiving. But we forget, and yield to fear. We trust in the tangible rewards of this world and neglect Your promises. We confess that we are a divided people; we foster separations and widen rifts in our families, our communities, and in the world. In Your mercy, forgive us ... (time for silent confession) ... Open us to Your healing. Free us from all that distances us from Your presence. Give us Your grace and inspire us to serve You with courage, through Jesus Christ Who comes to save. Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon
Hear the Good News! Who is in a position to condemn?
Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Alleluia! Amen.
*The Gloria Patri (sung)

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

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you!

(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshipping at home, please share Christ's peace with someone outside your home this week.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD . . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-10

The Psalter Lesson: Psalm 71:1-6

The Anthem

Give Me Jesus

Mark Patterson

Chris Fisher, Mary Ann Casey, Roy Jarnecke, Larry Casey
Scott Shirk, saxophone

In the morning when I rise, Give me Jesus, give me Jesus. You can have all this world, give me Jesus.
And when I feel afraid, Give me Jesus, give me Jesus. You can have all this world, give me Jesus.
And when the trumpet sounds, Give me Jesus, give me Jesus. You can have all this world, give me Jesus.

The Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 12:18-29

A Moment with the Children

The Recognition of Ministry

*The Hymn 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea. There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty. There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind. And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind. If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word, And our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.


The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Not Our Own

Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD . . .

*The Affirmation of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the water of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice,
freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The 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.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD’S NAME. . .

*The Hymn 697

Take My Life

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee; Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King; Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself and I will be ever only all for Thee, ever only all for thee.

*The Charge & Benediction

*The Postlude

Concerto for Two Trumpets

Scott Shirk, soprano saxophone; Brendan Shirk, oboe; Aaron Shirk, cello

Antonio Vivaldi
Looking Ahead

Do you recall as a child the first time you realized perspective meant something? -- When the moon seemed like an enormous globe squatting on the horizon, or when a soaring eagle tuned out to be a fat pigeon loafing in the sky. What we expect to see, and where we train our eyes impacts what we imagine and perceive.

A colleague of mine points out that his automobile windshield is roughly 5 x 3 feet, but his rearview mirror is 9 x 2 inches. This is to say over 100 times more visibility is afforded what is ahead than what is behind. They make the point that many people spend a great deal of time and energy looking in the rearview mirror, even fixating there. The orientation map they use keeps directing them backwards rather than forward and makes for a fairly difficult way to drive.

Recent weeks have given Chris and me lots of opportunity to reflect and reminisce and that is how it should be. Life seems better understood on reflection (backward), but it must be lived forward. Just how to recall, treasure and celebrate the past without getting stuck in it seems to be key. Teaching ourselves how to gather wisdom from what’s behind us without making the past dictate our future is part of maturing at any age or stage of life.

It’s true that the longer we live, the more memories we have. But when the windshield is large enough to open to the road ahead, we just may find God may be beckoning us all to a new future that we can only glimpse around the curves and over the hills on the road ahead. * Eyes up! Afterall, what’s ahead is where we will spend the rest of our lives.

Thanks be to God!

See you soon,
Allen

*(see Psalm 139:7-12)*

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**Weekly Meetings & Activities**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Meditation Group, 6 pm (Library)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>CE Committee, 7pm (Conf Rm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>Retirement Celebration, 6:30pm (Expo Ctr)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>Community Dinner, 2 pm (FH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun.</td>
<td>Worship, 8:30am (Sanct./Youtube)</td>
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<td>Worship, 10am (Sanct.)</td>
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<td>Retirement Picnic 11 am</td>
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<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Keep It Moving-group, 3:15pm (FH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>Men’s Breakfast Group, 7:30am (FH)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Blood Drive, 1 pm (FH)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>LIFT Teacher Training, 7 pm (Conf. Rm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Meditation Group, 6 pm (Zoom)</td>
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**Church Family News:**

- **Capsule of Concern:** Doris Glidden, Doris Gulatsi, Lou Silvey

**Lectionary Readings for Sunday, August 21:**


**Brownies**, bagged 2 to a bag, are needed for the **Community Dinner** on August 20. Please deliver them to the Fellowship Hall kitchen between 9:00 a.m. and Noon on Friday morning, August 19, or on the 20th between 3:00-4:00 p.m.

**Coming Sunday, September 11: Fall Kickoff!**

Worship times return to 8:30am and 11:00am. LIFT (Living In Faith Together) begins with a congregation-wide POTLUCK at 9:45am-10:45am! Bring a favorite breakfast dish to share and hear about the Fall LIFT classes for children, youth, and adults. Classes will begin on Sunday, September 18.

**Birthdays this week August 17-24**

17. Lavada Allen, Madison Hughes-Capman
18. Ted Williams, Brendan Shirk
19. Mary Kukla, Carole Nelen, Margaret Hardy
20. Mike Adams, Stacie Buck
21. Aubrey Raska
23. Jessica Conway
24. Lynda Baer, Lena Joel, Cillian Barnes
Looking Ahead:

Aug. 23: Blood Drive
LIFT Teacher Training
Sept. 11: Begin Fall Worship Schedule
and Kickoff for LIFT & Youth Group
Oct 5: Pints and Parables

Make your appointment now to give blood at our annual summer Blood Drive on Tuesday August 23, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. – 7:00p.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall. Appointments are made online at redcrossblood.org.
(Enter FredericksburgPresbyterian for the sponsor code) or 1-800 733-2767. For more information, please contact Linda Benn at lkbrab@verizon.net or 540 370-1646.

Celebrating the Ministry of The Rev. Allen H. Fisher, Jr. ~ August 18 and 21

On Thursday, August 18, beginning at 6:30pm at the Fredericksburg Expo Center, our church will celebrate the ministry of The Rev Allen H. Fisher, Jr. The evening will consist of a gathering time, buffet dinner, and a program sharing different aspects of Pastor Fisher’s ministry here in Fredericksburg.

On Sunday, August 21, we will honor Pastor Fisher at both worship services (8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.) with a picnic on the church grounds and in the fellowship hall following the 10:00 a.m. service. Chicken tenders and beverages will be provided. Members are asked to bring a vegetable or salad to share. There will be an Ice Cream truck available.

Fall marks the start of a new opportunity to gather in Fellowship! Starting October 2, through November 20, 2022, all are invited to enjoy “Sunday lunch” in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Come and share a casual lunch with old friends and new.

Groups or individuals interested in preparing a light lunch, please contact Trina Parsons (865) 386---1988 (tkp76@icloud.com), or Sharon Humes (540) 226---9771 (pshumes1@gmail.com).

Mark your calendars, and be on the lookout for more information coming soon.

During September, in addition to our own Rev. Michelle Abel, several guest preachers will lead us in worship on Sundays: Rev. Roger Gench (retired, former pastor of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC); Rev. Liz Snader, pastor of the Campus Christian Community (CCC) of the University of Mary Washington; and Rev. Bruce Smith (retired, former pastor of the Stone Church in Watertown, NY and now a local resident). Join us in person and online to explore new voices from the pulpit.