

the
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



**Jeremiah
Community**
a home for our neighbors
Micah

April 26, 2026, 10:30 am
4th Sunday of Easter

Welcome to worship! Led by the Holy Spirit, we glorify God, nurture the faith with each other, and witness the fullness of Christ's love in the world. Beyond the pews, we hope you will grow in faith with us on Sunday mornings and throughout the week.

Children are welcome in the Sanctuary throughout the service and are encouraged to visit our Worship Corner in the front left of the Sanctuary for a variety of resources to help engage in worship. Childcare is available for infants through 4-year-olds in the nursery, which is located on the 1st floor of the Education Building.

Assisted listening devices are available at the Princess Anne Street side entrance. Restrooms are located underneath the Sanctuary, accessed via the stairs off the porch on the Princess Anne Street side or elevator, or in the Education Building next to the offices or kitchen, both with elevator access. Our service is livestreamed via YouTube.

We are glad you are here as we give glory to God together!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

✠We rise in body or spirit.

We say words in bold together.

Prelude

Risen Is the Holy Christ J.S. Bach, arr. Stanley Saxton

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

Gathering Prayer

O God, unite all of your faithful people. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found: Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Introit

Come, Christians Join to Sing (Hymn 267)

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Bryan Harvey

We come to worship God in our need,
bringing with us the needs of the world.
We come to God, who comes to us in Jesus,
and who knows by experience what human life is like.
We come with our faith and with our doubts,
we come with our hopes and with our fears.
We come as we are because it is God who invites us to come,
and God has promised never to turn us away.

✠Hymn 309

Come, Great God of All the Ages

*Come, great God of all the ages; make your earthly mission known;
speak through every deed and person; let your way and will be shown.
Guide the church to true commitment; give direction now, we ask;
fit us for the work of building; dedicate us to the task.*

*Come, Christ Jesus, flesh and spirit, sure foundation, cornerstone;
help us form the church eternal; may your vision be our own.
Send a message to each follower; lead all people to your way;
urge us to strong faith and action as we build the church today.*

*Come, great Spirit, in and with us, tune our ears to hear your call;
through the moving of your presence, let redeeming love recall*

*ministry in dedication, love embodied in our deeds;
challenge us to do your bidding, see your purpose, fill all needs.*

*Come, O come, in celebration, household of the one true God;
in commitment and rejoicing let us go where Christ has trod;
as we act in faith and reverence, let us, Lord, the future see;
place us in the church triumphant, now and for eternity.*

✠Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, from before the foundation of the world, you called us by name and pledged your steadfast love. But we confess that we have not always listened. You offer to lead us, but we prefer to lead ourselves. Christ laid down his life, yet we refuse to lay down our phones, our plans, our pride. Forgive us, O God. Call us back to the open gate of Christ's redeeming love that we may enter your beloved community and find restoration for our souls, reconciliation with our enemies and the glory of abiding with you forever. Amen.

✠Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

✠ Gloria (Hymn 582) *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

✠Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination *based on meditation by Howard Thurman*

Scripture Readings: *John 10:1-10*
Psalm 23

p. 126 in the pew Bible
p. 617 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

Anthem

I Want to Be Ready

Howard Helvey, arr.

*I want to be ready, I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John.
John said the city was just four-square and he declared he'd meet me there.
Oh, John, oh, John, what do you say? That I'll be there at the coming day.
I want to be ready, I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John.*

Bible

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

A Life Uncommon

Moment for Micah

Jeremiah Community

Meghann Cotter, Executive Servant Leader, Micah Ecumenical Ministries

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 301

Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)

*Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions: all are welcome;
all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: all are welcome; all are welcome;
all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are welcome;
all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here
the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: all are welcome; all are welcome;
all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of
tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: all are welcome; all are welcome; all
are welcome in this place.*

✠Affirmation of Faith from *The Confession of 1967* (inclusive language text)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Natasha Taylor

. . . forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors . . .

Moment for Mission

Outreach Volunteer Appreciation

Jim Toler

Presentation of Offerings

Gifts, tithes, and offerings may be placed in the plates at the Sanctuary entrance. We also give thanks to God for offerings given via mail and online at fredericksburgpc.org/give.

✠Doxology (Hymn 609) *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

✠Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

✠Hymn 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

during the first verse, children are dismissed to the Ed Building for choir

*Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.*

*May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.*

*Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.*

*Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.*

*Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.*

*So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude *MORGENLIED: Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!* arr. Humphrey Turner

*Go in peace, holding quiet space for those who wish to reflect and pray.
Join Meghann Cotter in the Fellowship Hall for more conversation.*



Serving in Worship Today:

Choirmasters: Mary Ann & Larry Casey

Organist: Amy Shirk

Ushers: Sherman Brown, Gary Vaughn

Elevator Assistant: Jerry Zekert

Sanctuary Guild: Mike and Michelle Gibson

Videographer: Kristen Betsill

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Come, Great God of All the Ages—Text: Mary Jackson Cathey, 1987; Hope Publishing Company © 1990; Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor,

1941 ©1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me—Text: Trad. Liturgical text; adapt. Paul M. Vasile, © 2008

I Want to Be Ready—Howard Helvey; Beckenhorst Press ©2017

Let Us Build a House; All are Welcome—Text and Music: Mary Haugen, © 1994; GIA Publications, Inc.

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow—Text: Brian Wren, 1989; Music: Geistliche Kirchengesang, 1623; harm. Hal H. Hopson, 1998;

Hope Publishing Company; ©1989

Called as Partners in Christ's Service—Text: Jane Parker Huber; Music: John Zundel, 1870; ©1981, Jane Parker Huber (admin.

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