



**August 24, 2025, 10:00 am**  
*Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*

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.

Our service today includes the celebration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. All are invited to share in this joyful feast of the people of God by coming forward to receive the elements. Children are welcome in the Sanctuary, with childcare available for infants through 4-year-olds in the nursery on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Education Building.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

✠ We rise in body or spirit.  
**We say words in bold together.**

### GATHERING

Prelude

*Prelude*

Franz Liszt, arr. F. Ritter

Welcome and Announcements

## Gathering Prayer

**God of Wisdom, we eagerly seek your presence in our lives and in the world. By your Spirit speak your word to us and give us your grace to recognize the abundant signs of your care for us, so that we might be freed to act in the world with courage and abandon. Amen.**

## Introit

*I Will Sing With the Spirit*  
Theresa Roys & Patti Kerns, sopranos

John Rutter

## ✠ Call to Worship *based on Psalm 71:1-6*

Liturgist: Bobbie Kerns

Come, take refuge in the Lord. God's door is always open.

**God gets us back on our feet and makes space for salvation.**

God is our rock and our fortress, our refuge and strength.

**God is our hope and our trust from the very beginning.**

Praise the Lord! Let us worship.

## ✠ Hymn 401

*Here in This Place (Gather Us In)*

*Here in this place the new light is streaming;  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now and we shall awaken;  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery.  
We are the old who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;  
give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and the water;  
here we will take the bread of new birth.  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;*

*give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven light years away:  
here in this place the new light is shining;  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever;  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

Prayer of Confession *based on Hebrews 12:22-29*

**God of life, you come to us as a consuming fire, the judge of all. 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 become entrenched and obsessed with rules and regulations. 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, the mediator of a new covenant, who comes to save. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

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

✠ Gloria Patri (Hymn 581)

*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.*

✠ Peace and Greeting

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

### HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: *Luke 13:10-17*

p. 92 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

Anthem

*Laudamus te*  
Theresa Roys & Patti Kerns, sopranos

Antonio Vivaldi

Scripture Reading: *Jeremiah 1:4-10*

p. 854 in the pew Bible

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

Sermon

*Back to School: Reach for the Stars* Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 69

*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord)*

*I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.*

*All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.*

*I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.*

*Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?*

*REFRAIN: Here am I Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.*

*I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.*

*I have wept for love of them. They turn away.*

*I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.*

*I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? REFRAIN*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,*

*I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.*

*Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.*

*I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? REFRAIN*

✠Affirmation of Faith

from *The Confession of 1967 (inclusive language text)*

**Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world...In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God. "Now to him who by the power within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

Moment for Mission

Sunday Schedule

Bruce Harvey

## 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](http://fredericksburgpc.org/give).

## ✠Song of Praise (Hymn 612, verse 1)

*We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.*

## ✠Prayer of Dedication

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### Invitation

#### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

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.**

Holy, holy, holy Lord – . . . we proclaim the great mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Spirit, come – come and live in us: . . . With boldness, we join in the prayer of our Savior: **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 of the Bread

#### Communion of the People

*Today we will celebrate communion by intinction. You are invited to come forward to receive the elements, choosing to either dip your bread into the common cup or take an individual cup. We will serve the outer pews front to back first, then center pews front to back, then those who remain seated in the pews. Those seated in the balcony will be served upstairs. All the bread is*

*gluten-free and the cups contain grape juice. These are the gifts of God for the people of God!*

## Prayer After Receiving

### SENDING

✠Hymn 529

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name  
two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Here we touch your garment's hem.*

*As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,  
then with thanks to God the giver break the bread and bless the cup,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! So now bind our friendship up.*

*All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you,  
that by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve the faith anew.*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude

*Sometimes a Light Surprises*

William Barnett

*Go in peace, holding quiet space for those who wish to reflect and pray.*



### ***Serving in Worship Today:***

Choirmasters: Mary Ann & Larry Casey

Organist: Amy Shirk

Communion Servers: Connie Barnes, Linda Benn, Mike Gibson, Bruce Harvey,  
Betsy Lewis, Jim Toler, Tom Theado

Ushers: Jesse Chewning, Gary Vaughn

Elevator Assistant: Sherman Brown

Sanctuary Guild: Mary Lou Cramer

Videographer: Les Johnson, Trey Talmadge

### **Church Family News**

Our Christian love and sympathy is extended to Erik Fino on the death of his father, Raymond Fino, who died August 13, 2025.

Our Christian love and sympathy is extended to Dylan Nelen and the Nelen family on the death of Dylan's brother, Noah White, who died August 18, 2025.

We pray for: Irene Repanshek

We continue to pray for: Gene McGill (Ginger Oplinger's father), Douglas Smith (son of Bruce and Elizabeth Smith)



This week's announcements are e-mailed and posted online. Printed copies are available at the entrance.

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(540) 373-7057 | [www.fredericksburgpc.org](http://www.fredericksburgpc.org)

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*Glory Be to the Father*—Text: Trad. liturgical text; ©1851; Public Domain

*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky* – Text: Daniel L Schutte, © 1981, 2000 OCP

*We Praise You, O God*—Text: Julia C. Cory, 1902, alt. Public Domain

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