



**August 31, 2025, 10:00 am**  
*Twelfth 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 weekly announcements are e-mailed each Wednesday and posted online. Printed copies are available at the entrance.



Children are welcome in the Sanctuary throughout the service and are encouraged to borrow activity bags at the entrance with children's bulletins and other materials to engage in worship. Childcare is available for infants through 4-year-olds in the nursery, which is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Education Building.

Assisted listening devices are available at the Princess Anne St. 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.

## GATHERING

Prelude

*Pavane*

Brian Glyncannon

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Prayer

**Holy God, you alone are worthy of honor and praise. Open our eyes to see the world as you see it. Give us the wisdom to witness your presence in all people. Transform us in love, grow us in our faith, call us to love with a full heart and to share your promises with all people. Amen.**

Introit

*How Our Hearts with Joy Abound* (Hymn 333)

✠ Call to Worship *based on Psalm 81*

Liturgist: Kimberly Fischer

Sing aloud! Shout for joy! God is our strength.

**Raise a song: choir, instruments, and more.**

Today is a day of celebration, a feast to God!

**A day decreed by God so that we may remember God's mighty deeds.**

Come, worship the one who brought us out of Egypt,

**who feeds us in body and spirit.**

Listen for God's voice. Walk in God's ways. Let us worship.

✠ Hymn 282

*Come Down, O Love Divine*

*Come down, O Love Divine; seek out this soul of mine,  
and visit it with your own ardor glowing.*

*O Comforter, draw near; within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.*

*O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn to  
dust and ashes in its heat consuming.*

*And let your glorious light shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illumining.*

*And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling.*

*For none can guess God's grace, till Love creates a place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.*

## Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, forgive us for the ways we exalt ourselves. We choose to believe we are self-sufficient rather than trust in your strength. We ignore strangers and turn away from those in need. We seek honor for ourselves and allow pride to take root in us. In your mercy, restore us to you, that we may walk in your way of humility and discover the mutual love you intend for all your children. Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon *based on Jeremiah 2:5, Psalm 81:6*

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: *Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16*

p. 276 in the pew Bible

### Moment with the Children

## Anthem

*The Time for Turning* Craig Courtney/Pamela Martin

*To everything a season, to everything a time;  
a moment to move forward and leave the past behind.  
As summer turns to autumn and bids farewell to spring,  
there comes a time for turning to every living thing.  
The breezes change direction, the geese turn homeward bound.  
The leaf turns from its clinging and falls upon the ground.  
The flower turns from blooming to slumber in the snow.  
And so to all a season, a time for letting go.  
Now is the time for turning and this the place to start;  
for yielding to the yearning, for changing of the heart;  
A moment to surrender the things we should release,  
forgive and find forgiveness, and in forgiveness, peace.*

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

Sermon

*Back to School: Take a Seat* Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 729

*Lord, I Want to be a Christian*

*Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;*

*Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart.*

*In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;*

*Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.*

*In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;*

*Lord, I want to more holy in my heart.*

*In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.*

*Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;*

*Lord I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

*In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

✠Affirmation of Faith

from *The Second Helvetic Confession*

**Faith is the gift of God . . . efficacious and active through love. It also quiets the conscience and opens a free access to God, so that we may draw near to him with confidence and may obtain from him what is useful and necessary. The same faith keeps us in the service we owe to God and our neighbor, strengthens our patience in adversity, fashions and makes a true confession, and in a word, brings forth good fruit of all kinds, and good works. . . truly good works grow out of a living faith by the Holy Spirit and are done by the faithful according to the will or rule of God's Word.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

p. 35 in the hymnal

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

Moment for Mission

Sunday Schedule

Mary Ann Casey

## 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

### SENDING

## ✠Hymn 306

### *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

*Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.*

*We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear.  
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.*

*When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.*

*From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;  
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.*

## ✠Charge and Benediction

## ✠Postlude

### *Let the Trumpet Sound!*

Lani Smith

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



*The flowers on the pulpit are a gift from Susie and Steve Davis  
celebrating their 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*

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

Choirmasters: Mary Ann & Larry Casey

Organist: Amy Shirk

Ushers: Bridget and Bruce Harvey

Elevator Assistant: Bill Stewart

Sanctuary Guild: Mary Lou Cramer

Videographer: Trey Talmadge, Jerry Zekert

### ***Church Family News***

We pray for: Emily Stephens (mother of Amy Talmadge)

We continue to pray for: Irene Repanshek, the Nelen family, and Douglas Smith (son of Bruce and Elizabeth Smith)

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Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906; alt. Public Domain

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

*The Time for Turning*—Text and Music: Craig Courtney; Lorenz Publishing; ©2007

*Lord, I want to Be a Christian*—Text and Music: African American Spiritual

*We Praise You, O God*—Text: Julia C. Cory, 1902, alt.; Music: Neder-landtsch Gedenck-Clanck, 1626;  
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*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*—Text: John Fawcett (1782); Music: Johamn Georg Nageli, 1828; arr.  
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