

*the*  
**PRESBYTERIAN**  
CHURCH

GENESIS.

# Back to the Beginning

*Summer Sermon Series*

**July 5, 2026, 10:30 am**

*6<sup>th</sup> 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.

Children are welcome in the Sanctuary throughout the service and are encouraged to visit our worship corner in the front left of the Sanctuary and borrow a variety of resources. This summer, toddlers and preschoolers are invited to join us in the pews for the beginning of worship. After the moment with the children, they may leave with staff and volunteers to play on the playground or in the nursery on the first 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.**

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

Prelude

*Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

Hubert Parry

*Silent prayer of preparation*

Author of life, you cast your glory all around us; you reveal yourself to us in ancient stories and the give-and-take of common life. You have called us to this place as your holy people. By the power of your Spirit, come to us now, that we might be renewed to follow Jesus – our hope, our confidence – and your beloved Son. Amen.

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Bobbie Kerns

Calling all citizens of heaven: exiled dreamers and disciples of love,

**God is close to the outcast and faithful to all.**

Calling all pilgrims of the Spirit, carried by the winds of hope,

**God is everywhere at all times, compassionate to all.**

Calling all travelers between worlds, who translate compassion into peace,

**God makes neighbors of strangers and kin of the forgotten.**

Come to worship and be renewed for this long journey.

**Strangers in a strange land, we have come to worship**

**the creator of all.**

✠Hymn 327

*From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

*From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise:*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, in every tongue.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*In every land begin the song; to every land the strains belong:*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the world with joyful praise.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends thy word:*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Thy praise shall sound from shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

✠Prayer of Confession

**Gracious One, where do we begin? You call us to do justice, and we explain that justice is complicated. You ask us to love mercy, and we counter that a show of strength is necessary. You invite us to walk humbly with you, and we struggle to recognize you in our neighbors, in the dispossessed, in the poor and hungry places of our own hearts. We confess we have failed to summon the courage and compassion required by your call. We have treated hospitality as an option, kinship as a choice, instead of as the center of our life together. We have claimed your name, yet rejected your way. Forgive us, we pray. Set us free to follow you in the fullness of faith through the mercy of our Savior. 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: *Hebrews 11:8-16*

p. 273 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

✠Hymn 333      *How Our Hearts with Joy Abound (Psalm 45)*  
*How our hearts with joy abound, with your beauty all around;  
words are feeble to express your great love and righteousness.*

*Fairer still than human frame, ever to our eyes the same,  
steadfast love shines from your face; from your lips flow words of grace.*

*Yours the scepter, yours the throne; you to us are God alone.  
Vast the mercies to us given: wealth of earth, and joy of heaven.*

This is the word of faith that we proclaim. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*Going without Knowing*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 684

*Faith Begins by Letting Go*

*Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure,  
taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure:  
pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.*

*Faith endures by holding on, keeping memory's roots alive  
so that hope may bear its fruit; promise fed, our souls will thrive,  
not through merit we possess but by God's great faithfulness.*

*Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds, enlarging hearts,  
sharing struggles, living prayer, binding up the broken parts;  
till we find the commonplace ripe with witness to God's grace.*

✠Affirmation of Faith from *A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*  
**God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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

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).

✠Doxology (Hymn 606) and Prayer of Dedication

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

✠Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

✠Hymn 331                      *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*

*God of the ages, whose almighty hand  
leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.*

*Thy love divine hath led us in the past.  
In this free land by thee our lot is cast.  
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay:  
thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.*

*From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense.  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase.  
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.*

*Refresh thy people on their toilsome way.  
Lead us from night to neverending day.  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude                      *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*                      Charles V. Stanford  
*Go in peace, holding quiet space for those who wish to reflect and pray.*



*The flowers on the pulpit are given by John Howe  
in celebration of John and Barbara's wedding anniversary.*

***Serving in Worship Today:***

Guest Organist: Brooks Kuykendall

Ushers: Michele Coffman, Steve Davis

Elevator Assistant: Bryan Eland

Sanctuary Guild: Mary Lou Cramer

Videographer: Les Johnson, Kristen Betsill

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

*How Our Hearts with Joy Abound (Psalm 45)*—Text: Michael Morgan, 1995; Music: Freylinghausens's Geistreiches Gesangbuch, 1704,

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