

*the*  
**PREBYTERIAN**  
CHURCH

GENESIS.

# Back to the Beginning

*Summer Sermon Series*

**June 21, 2026, 10:30 am**

*4<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.**

Prelude

*Largo*

Daniel Purcell

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

Gathering Prayer

**God of the covenant, your steadfast love abides with your people in every age. You teach us to trust in you and call us to live in peace with one another. Show us the way to live grateful lives, without fear, knowing the true worth of your creation, including ourselves; in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

Introit

*I Love to Tell the Story (Hymn 462)*

Call to Worship *based on Matthew 10:29-31*

Liturgist: Connie Barnes

Not one sparrow will fall to the ground apart from their Creator.

**God tells us we are of more value than many sparrows.**

God knows us and loves us. Even the hairs of our head are all counted.

**We praise you, O God! Grateful are we for your love and care!**

✠Hymn 735

*I Need Thee Every Hour*

*I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;*

*no tender voice like thine can peace afford.*

*I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee!*

*O bless me now, my Savior--I come to thee!*

*I need thee every hour; stay thou near by;*

*temptations lose their power when thou art nigh.*

*I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee!*

*O bless me now, my Savior--I come to thee!*

*I need thee every hour; teach me thy will,*

*and thy rich promises in me fulfill.*

*I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee!*

*O bless me now, my Savior--I come to thee!*

*I need thee every hour, Most Holy One;*

*O make me thine indeed, thou blessed Son.*

*I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee!  
O bless me now, my Savior--I come to thee!*

✠Prayer of Confession

**God of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac, God of Hagar and Ishmael, who gave us your Son, Jesus Christ the crucified, send your Holy Spirit to help us confess and truly repent of our sins. We turn against one another; we fail to care for the weak and poor among us. We pay no heed to the cries of the powerless; we seek our own advantage. Forgive us, merciful God. Wipe sin from our lives and let us find ourselves wholly in Jesus Christ, 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: *Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17*

p. 669 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

Anthem

*How Can I Keep from Singing* Gwyneth Walker, arr.

*My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the real though distant song that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing  
It sounds an echo in my soul, How can I keep from singing?  
What though the tempest loudly roars, I hear the truth, it's living!  
What though the darkness round me close, songs in the night it's giving!  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since I believe that love abides, how can I keep from singing?  
When tyrants tremble when they hear the bells of freedom ringing.  
When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing?*

*In prison cell, in dungeon dark, our thoughts to them are winging.  
When friends hold courage in their heart, how can I keep from singing?*

Scripture Reading: *Genesis 21:8-21*

p. 20 in the pew Bible

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

Sermon

*A God Who Hears*

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 472

*Kum ba Yah*

*Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!  
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!*

*Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah! Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah!  
Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!*

*Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah! Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!  
Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!*

*Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah! Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!  
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!*

✠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)

***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 19                      *God of Great and God of Small*  
*God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,  
God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong,  
REFRAIN: alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.*

*God of land and sky and sea, God of life and destiny,  
God of never ending power, yet beside me every hour, [Refrain]*

*God of silence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,  
God of day and darkest night, God whose love turns wrong to right, [Refrain]*

*God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,  
God of now and days before, God who reigns for evermore, [Refrain]*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude                      *Toccata Français*                      Gordon Young  
*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

Ushers: Marjolijn Bijlefeld, Mike Gibson

Elevator Assistant: John Howe

Sanctuary Guild: Debbie and Paul Leimer

Videographer: Les Johnson, Trey Talmadge

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*I Need Thee Every Hour*— Text: Annie S. Hawks, 1872; Music: Robert Lowry, 1872; Public Domain

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

*How Can I Keep from Singing*— Text Walker; Shirmer ©1996

*Kum ba Yah*— Text and Music: African American Spiritual

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*—Text: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709; Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551; Public Domain

*God of Great and God of Small*—Text and Music: Natalie Sleeth; , 1973; Music:; arr. Beverly A. Howard, 2012; Carl Fischer, Inc, © 1973

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