



May 3, 2026, 10:30 am
5th 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

Prayer

George Blake

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

Gathering Prayer

Almighty God, in Christ you have shown us the way, revealed to us your truth, and offered us everlasting life. May we see your path more clearly, know your truth more fully, and receive your life more abundantly. Amen.

Introit

He is King of Kings (Hymn 273)

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Mike Gibson

In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth.

Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.

He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

Come now, all who thirst, and drink the water of life.

Come now, all who hunger, and be filled with good things.

Come now, all who seek, and be warmed by the fire of love.

☩ Hymn 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

*Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.*

*With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory.*

*What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth:
by morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of God's might, lo! All is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory!*

*The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing,
as with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory.*

*Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body take your part:
to God all praise and glory.*

✠Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, your word offers freedom from sin, but we confess that we have not obeyed your word. We have harbored malice toward our enemies; we have been deceitful in our relationships; we have been insincere in our commitments. Forgive us our sins and lead us to genuine repentance. Help us grow into the joy of salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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*

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

✠Peace and Greeting

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

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings: *John 14:1-14*

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

p. 132 in the pew Bible

p. 622 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

Anthem

In the Sweet By-and-By

Howard Helvey, arr.

*There's a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way
to prepare us a dwelling place there.*

*In the sweet by-and-by, We shall meet on that beautiful shore.
We shall sing on that beautiful shore the melodious songs of the blest;
And our spirits shall sorrow no more, Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.
To our bountiful Father above, We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of His love and the blessings that hallow our days.
In the sweet by-and-by, We shall meet on that beautiful shore.*

Scripture Reading: *1 Peter 2:2-10*

p. 282 in the pew Bible

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

Sermon

Building Blocks

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 361

O Christ, the Great Foundation

*O Christ, the great foundation on which your people stand
to preach your true salvation in every age and land:
pour out your Holy Spirit to make us strong and pure,
to keep the faith unbroken as long as worlds endure.*

*Baptized in one confession, one church in all the earth,
we bear our Lord's impression, the sign of second birth:
one holy people gathered in love beyond our own,
by grace we were invited: by grace we make you known.*

*Where tyrants' hold is tightened, where strong devour the weak,
where innocents are frightened, the righteous fear to speak,
there let your church awaking attack the powers of sin
and, all their ramparts breaking, with you the victory win.*

*This is the moment glorious when he who once was dead
shall lead his church victorious, their champion and their head.
The Lord of all creation his heavenly kingdom brings:
the final consummation, the glory of all things.*

✠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

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

Moment for Micah

Jeremiah Community

Jan Erkert

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 634

To God Be the Glory

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

To God be the glory; great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

REFRAIN: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory: great things He has done!

Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

*and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude *Grand Triumphal Chorus* Alexander Guilmant
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: Paul Kukla, Adam Nelen

Elevator Assistant: Chuck Penick

Sanctuary Guild: Mike & Michelle Gibson

Videographer: Kristen Betsill, Ed Foresman

810 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
(540) 373-7057 | www.fredericksburgpc.org

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Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley,

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