

November 15, 2026, 10:30 am

25th 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 during worship. Childcare is also available for infants through 4-year-olds in the nursery 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. If you need access to the Ed. Building during worship, please speak to an usher. 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

Centering Bells

Welcome and Announcements — Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

Prelude — *Song Without Words Op. 30, No. 3* — Felix Mendelssohn

Silent prayer of preparation
Ever-living God, before the earth was formed and even after it shall cease to be, you are God. Break into our short span of life and show us those things that are eternal, that we may serve your purpose in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Call to Worship *based on Psalm 123* — Liturgist: Betsy Mathias

Lift up your eyes to our heaven-dwelling God!
We're watching and waiting, holding our breath.
We cry out for mercy, for we have had more than our fill.
Mercy, God, Mercy!
We've been kicked around by life long enough.
May we find refuge here in God's steadfast love.

✠Hymn 612 — *We Praise You, O God*

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.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

✠Prayer of Confession

God, we long to live in your light, but often fall asleep to your ways of justice. We are giddy with power and abuse the rights of others, holding tight to our privileges over your laws. We walk around complacently, content with our own security until suddenly everything falls apart and we come running to you. Wake us up, Lord, so we do not sleepwalk through life. Hear our confession, and respond to us with kindness, that we might walk out into the new day dressed up in faith, love, and the hope of salvation through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 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: *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11* p. 250 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children Natasha Taylor, Faith Formation Coordinator

Anthem *Pilgrims' Hymn* Stephen Paulus

Even before we call on your name to ask You, O God. When we seek for the words to glorify You, You hear our prayer. Unceasing love, O unceasing love, surpassing all we know. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Even with darkness sealing us in, we breathe Your name, and through all the days that follow so fast, we trust in You. Endless Your Grace, O endless Your Grace, beyond all mortal dream, Both now and forever, and unto ages and ages.

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 25:14-30* p. 34 in the pew Bible

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

Sermon *Talented*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 761 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

✠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 Stewardship Harry Land

Presentation of Offerings

Whether your gift is placed in the plate, given online, or shared through your time and talents, all are invited to pause as the plate is passed to you for a prayerful moment of thanksgiving.

Offertory *I Will Sing with the Spirit* John Rutter

✠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 644 *Give Thanks, O Christian People*

during the last verse, children are dismissed to the ed building for Covenant Choir.

Give thanks, O Christian people, for workers of our day
who heed the call to service and make it their life's way
to go to feed the hungry, to tend to those in need,
to work for equal justice, till all God's folk are freed.

Give thanks, O Christian people, for leaders of our years
who live to share with others our joy when Christ appears,
to teach the ones who seek light, to guide the faltering feet,
to lead the followers forward our living Lord to meet.

Give thanks, O Christian people, for all who love the Lord,
who live each day believing in God's eternal Word:
to share Christ's love in living, to witness with each deed,
to use the talents given to plant the gospel seed.

Give thanks, O Christian people, for life in fellowship
with all who trust our Savior their serving to equip:
To ease another's burdens, to cope in joy and stress,

to magnify God's message and Christ's great love confess.

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude *Triumphal March* G. F. Handel

Go in peace, holding quiet space for those who wish to reflect and pray.
Join us for 3rd Sunday lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

Serving in Worship Today:

Organist: Amy Shirk
Director of Music: Mike McCarthy
Ushers: Linda Benn, Karen Johnson
Elevator Assistant: Linda Spratt
Sanctuary Guild: Linda and Steve Spratt
Videographer: Ed Foresman

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

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