the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



November 8, 2026, 10:30 am

24th 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 — *Be Thou My Vision* — arr. Edward Broughton

Silent prayer of preparation by A. Osdieck based on 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
We don't know what we will hear. The call of an archangel? The blast of a trumpet? This much we know: We want to be ready when you come. Make us ready, Lord. Amen.

Call to Worship *by Thom Shuman* — Liturgist: Jesse Chewning

God has gathered us to this place,
where we hear those stories which show us
what the kingdom of God is like.
God summons us to this place,
where we can learn how to serve our God
without reservation, or hesitation.
God will send us from this place,
to tell others of God's hopes and dreams,
so they, too, can choose to follow God.
Come, let us worship the God who gathers, guides, and sends us out.

✠Hymn 63 — *The Lord is God*

The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise
to God, the maker of all things and giver or our days.

With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might,
O people love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.

At night or day, at home, away, together and apart,
O children, take these holy words and keep them in your heart.

The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise
to God, the maker of all things and giver or our days.

✠Prayer of Confession

Holy and gracious God, you are all light and wonder and glory. You are our strength and our delight; you give us all we need to live. Yet we are distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more. Rather than trust in your provision, we chase after our own happiness. Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you. Overwhelm us with your goodness and cover us with grace, for we know that you are the source of life, the fount of all that is good. In the name of Jesus we pray. 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: *Psalm 78:1-7* p. 661 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

Anthem *God Be In My Head* Philip Wilby

Scripture Reading: *Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25* p. 267 in the pew Bible

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

Sermon *Choosing to Serve*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 757 *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained the human race
to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

✠Affirmation of Faith *from The Theological Declaration of Barmen*

Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death. We reject the false doctrine, as though the church could and would have to acknowledge as a source of its proclamation, apart from and besides this one Word of God, still other events and powers, figures and truths, as God's revelation. . . As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life . . . We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords – areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer — Natasha Taylor

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

Moment for Outreach — Betsy Mathias

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 *Day by Day* Martin How

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray: to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day.

✠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 749 *Come! Live in the Light! (We Are Called)*

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

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.

REFRAIN: We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and violence will be no more. [Refrain]

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love. [Refrain]

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude *Trumpet Gigue* Gordon Young

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

The flowers on the pulpit are given by John and Barbara Howe
in honor of all veterans who have served or are currently serving.

Serving in Worship Today:
Organist: Amy Shirk
Director of Music: Mike McCarthy
Ushers: Tristin and Robert Fidler
Elevator Assistant: Bill Stewart
Sanctuary Guild: Linda and Steven Spratt
Videographers: Vicky Wilder

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The Lord Is God —Text: David Gambrell, 2011; Music: Carl Gotthelf Glaser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839 © 2011; David Gambrell (admin.
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Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples —Text: H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985; Music: English County Songs, 1893; harm,
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906; © 1989; H. Kenn Carmichael
Day By Day—Text: Martin How; © 2002 The Royal School of Church Music
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow—Text: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709; Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551; Public Domain
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