

the
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



September 13, 2026, 10:30 am
16th 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

Deep River

arr. David Hegarty

Silent prayer of preparation by The Brothers of Weston Priory

Creator Spirit, mighty wind of God, you brood over our lives and speak new life into our chaos. Your Sabbath celebrates the flowering of creation, the wedding of our hopes to your divine yearning. Overshadow us now with your beauty and your joy, that our world may know a Sabbath of wholeness and peace, today and forever. Amen.

Introit

Lead me, Lord

SS Wesley

*Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness, make thy ways plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety.*

Call to Worship *based on Psalm 103*

Liturgist: Paul Kukla

People of God, bless the Lord,

May all that is within us bless God's holy name.

Do not forget God's benefits; God forgives, heals, and redeems us from the pit.

God works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

God makes the way known; a way of mercy and grace, abounding in love.

Praise the Lord!

✠Hymn 52

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

*When Israel was in Egypt's land, let my people go;
oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go!*

*REFRAIN Go down, (go down,) Moses, (Moses,) way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh: let my people go!*

*"Thus saith the Lord," bold Moses said, "Let my people go!
If not, I'll smite your firstborn dead. Let my people go!" [Refrain]*

*"No more shall they in bondage toil: let my people go!
Let them come out with Egypt's spoil: let my people go!" [Refrain]*

*O let us all from bondage flee; let my people go!
And let us all in Christ be free: let my people go! [Refrain]*

✠Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us captive. In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin, that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace. Amen.

✠Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

✠Joyful Response (Hymn 591 refrain)

***Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lujah! Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lujah!
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

✠Peace and Greeting

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

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: *Revelation 22:1-7*

p. 316 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

Natasha Taylor, Faith Formation Coordinator

Anthem

Come to the Water

Jack Schrader

O let all who thirst let them come to the water, and let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord. Without money, without price, why should you pay the price except for the Lord? And let all who seek let them come to the water, and let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord. Without money, without strife, why should you spend your life, except for the Lord? And let all who toil let them come to the water and let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord. All who labor without rest, how can your soul find rest, except for the Lord?

Scripture Reading: *Exodus 14:19-31*

p. 75 in the pew Bible

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

Sermon

The Waters of Freedom

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.

Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;

be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.

Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee;

I will ever give to thee.

✠Affirmation of Faith *based on Exodus 15:1-11, 21*

We will sing to the Lord, for God is highly exalted. Both horse and driver have been hurled into the sea. The Lord is our strength and our defense; God is our salvation. This is our God and our parents' God, and we will praise the name of the Lord. God's hands are majestic in power and have shattered the enemy. By the blast of God's nostrils the waters piled up. The surging waters stood up like a wall; the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea. God blew with the wind and the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. Who among the gods is like our Lord – majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

Moment for Creation

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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

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

In This Holy Hour

Hugh Livingston

✠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 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love.*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let the grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude

Jubilee

James Mansfield

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



Serving in Worship Today:

Organist: Amy Shirk

Director of Music: Mike McCarthy

Ushers: Tristin and Robert Fidler

Elevator Assistant: Bill Stewart

Sanctuary Guild: Lynn and Preston Simms

Videographer: Ed Foresman

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Lead me, Lord - SS Wesley; Oxford University Press © 2002

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land—Text: African American Spiritual; Music: African American Spiritual: arr. Melva Wilson Costen, ©1989;

Melve Wilson Costen

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!—Text: Ref., trad, liturgical text; stanzas, Marty Haugen; Music: Caribbean melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1990;

stanzas, Mary Haugen, 1990; Text and Music: Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) ©1990

Come to the Water--Text: Jack Schrader; Hope Publishing Company © 2008

Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah – Text: William Williams, 1762; stanza 1, 2-3, trans Peter Williams 1771; Music: John Hughes, 1907;

Public Domain

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

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing—Text: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.; Music: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second,

1813; Public Domain

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