



## SEASON OF CREATION

a worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home.

**September 14, 2025, 10:30 am**  
*Fourteenth 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. Our weekly announcements are e-mailed each Wednesday and posted online. Printed copies are available at the entrance.



Children are welcome in the Sanctuary throughout the service and are encouraged to borrow activity bags at the entrance with children's bulletins and other materials to engage in worship. Childcare is available for infants through 4-year-olds in the nursery, which is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Education Building.

Assisted listening devices are available at the Princess Anne St. 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.

## GATHERING

Prelude

*Cantus Gilbert*

M. Martin

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Prayer *by Anne Rowthorn*

**Blessed are you, God of growth and discovery; yours is the inspiration that has altered and changed our lives; yours is the power that has brought us to new dangers and opportunities. Guide us in your holy creation to walk through this world, watching and learning, loving and trusting, until the coming of your reign. Amen.**

Introit

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

John Rutter

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Susie Davis

Our spirits lift at the beauty of this day.

**We rejoice in God our creator!**

When chaos threatens to overwhelm,  
and we dread the next news cycle –

**the Lord is with us still,**

**always creating, redeeming, sustaining.**

God's mercy speaks to us here, giving us courage to  
open our eyes, unclench our hands, and live in faith.

**May we rise and move with the rhythm of God's grace.**

✠ Hymn 32

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

*I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.*

*I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.*

*The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.*

*I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.*

*God formed the creatures through the Word,  
and then pronounced them good.*

*Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,  
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!*

*There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known,  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne,  
while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,  
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.*

✠ Prayer of Confession *from the Iona Community*

**There is no pain in our hearts or in our planet that you do not know, for you have touched the lowest places on earth. Teach us to grieve with you, O Christ, the loss of all the beauty that is being killed. Give us strength in your victory over death to grow into your way of love, which does not despair but keeps sowing seeds of hope and making signs of wholeness. Teach us to know our interconnectedness with all things. Teach us to grow with each other and all living things through love. Amen.**

✠ Assurance of Pardon *by Sallie McFague*

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

✠ Sung Response (Hymn 611, verse 2)

*All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.*

✠ Peace and Greeting

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

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings: *Luke 15:1-10*  
*Psalm 14:1-7*

p. 95 in the pew Bible  
p. 609 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

Anthem

*At His Name*

Joel Raney

*At his name the mighty oceans roar. At his name the wind stands still.  
At his name the eagle takes the sky. At his name the mighty nations cry.  
At his name a newborn baby breathes. At his name a flower grows.  
At his name the rushing rivers yield. At his name a broken heart is healed.  
At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,*

*every tongue confess him the King of glory now.  
Every voice lift him up! His power and majesty proclaim,  
every knee shall bow down at his name.*

Scripture Reading: *1 Timothy 1:12-17*

p. 253 in the pew Bible

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*Know God, Know Peace*

Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 774

*There is Now a New Creation*

*There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ,  
peace and reconciliation with the God of endless life.*

*Call the lost and found together; tell the news to everyone:  
now the past is gone forever and a new life has begun.*

*Wrap the prodigal in welcome; run to greet the wayward child.  
All is finished and forgiven; let us now be reconciled.*

*Come and join the celebration; come and join this happy feast;  
Jesus makes an invitation to the greatest and least.*

*There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ.  
Sing, with thanks and adoration, to the God of endless life!*

✠Affirmation of Faith *The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

p. 35 in the hymnal

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

Moment for Mission

Suppers for Seven

David Johnson

### 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).

### ✠Song of Praise (Hymn 15, verse 6)

*O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
All creatures, bless the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
Sing Praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

### ✠Prayer of Dedication

#### SENDING

### ✠Hymn 24

#### *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

*During the last verse, children K-5<sup>th</sup> grade are dismissed to Covenant Choir.*

*God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,  
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space,  
we, your children in your likeness, share inventive powers with you.  
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.*

*Proudly rise our modern cities, stately building row on row.  
Yet their windows, blank, unfeeling, stare on canyoned streets below,  
where the lonely drift unnoticed in the city's ebb and flow,  
lost to purpose and to meaning, scarcely caring where they go.*

*We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;  
known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;  
probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power,  
facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.*

*As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,  
children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.  
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor well begun.  
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.*

### ✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude

*Fantasia on "Iste Confessor"*

Lani Smith

*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: Mike Gibson, Tom Theado

Elevator Assistant: Bill Stewart

Sanctuary Guild: Lynn and Preston Simms

Videographer: Vicky Wilder, Trey Talmadge

### ***Church Family News***

We pray for: Harry Farley

We continue to pray for: Irene Repanshek, Douglas Smith (son of Bruce and Elizabeth Smith), Frank Johnson

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*I Sing the Mighty Power of God* – Text Isaac Watts, 1715, alt.; Music: Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Wirtembergischen Katholischen

Hofkapelle, 1784; alt. 1868; Public Domain

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* —Text: Henry van Dyke, 1907 alt.; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824: adapt. Edward Hodges,

1842, alt. Public Domain

*At His Name*—Text and Music: Joel Raney; ©2005; Hope Publishing

*There Is Now a New Creation* – Text: David Gambrell, 2009; Music: Witt's Psalmodia Sacra, 1715, alt. © 2011 David Gambrell

(admin. Presbyterian Publishing Company)

*All Creatures of Our God and King*—Text: Francis of Assisi, 1225: trans. Composite; Music: Geistliche Kirchengesand, 1623, alt; harm.

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906; Public Domain

*God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* – Text: Catherine Cameron, 1967, alt; Music: Attr. William Moore, 1825; harm. Charles Anders,

1969; ©1967: Hope Publishing Company

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