



## SEASON OF CREATION

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

**September 21, 2025, 10:30 am**

*Fifteenth 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

*Impromptu*

Franz Schubert

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Prayer *based on liturgy by* The Brothers of Weston Priory

**Creator Spirit, mighty wind of God, you brood over our lives and speak new life into our chaos. In the light of your holy Sabbath, each day is holy; in the overflowing of Sabbath joy, each moment is sacred. 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

*Hope of the World* (Hymn 734)

Call to Worship *from the U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program*

Liturgist: Porter Blakemore

We join with the earth and with each other:

**to bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air.**

We join with the earth and with each other:

**to renew the forests, to care for the plants, to protect the creatures.**

We join with the earth and with each other:

**to celebrate the seas, to rejoice in the sunlight, to sing the song of the stars.**

We join with the earth and with each other:

**to recreate the human community, to promote justice and peace.**

We join with the earth and with each other:

**together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery.**

Come, let us pray for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.

✠ Hymn 370

*This Is My Father's World*

*This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings,  
and round me rings the music of the spheres.*

*This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees,  
of skies and seas, his hand the wonders wrought.*

*This is my Father's world. O, let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world. The battle is not done;  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one.*

✠ Prayer of Confession from the U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program

**Gracious God, who made the covenant promise with our ancestors, we gather here today a rebellious people. We want to act out your intentions for us, but we keep getting mixed up by all the glitter of the world around us. You tell us to honor creation, and we use other people and animals and plant life only to meet our wants. You offer daily bread to every living creature, and we steal that bread from our brothers and sisters in the name of our greed. You promise us new life, and we shrink back from it in fear. Heal us, God, lest we destroy ourselves. We need your presence among us. Amen.**

✠ Assurance of Pardon

**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 by Andrew Linzey

Scripture Readings: *1 Timothy 2:1-7*  
*Psalms 79:1-9*

p. 254 in the pew Bible  
p. 664 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

Anthem

*Lord of the Small*

Dan Forrest/Johanna Anderson

*Praise to the Lord of the small, broken things,  
who sees the poor sparrow that cannot take wing.  
Who loves the lame child, and the wretch in the street,  
who comforts their sorrows and washes their feet.*

*Praise to the Lord of the faint and afraid,  
 who girds them with courage and lends them His aid.  
 He pours out His Spirit on vessels so weak  
 that the timid can serve and the silent can speak.  
 Praise to the Lord of the frail and the ill,  
 who heals their afflictions, or carries them til  
 They leave this tired frame and to paradise fly,  
 to never be sick, and never to die.  
 Praise Him, O praise Him, all ye who yet live,  
 who've been given so much and can so little give,  
 Our frail, lisping praise God will never despise:  
 He sees His dear children through mercy filled eyes.*

Scripture Reading: *Jeremiah 8:18-9:1*

p. 868 in the pew Bible

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

Sermon

*Praying for Peace*

Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 466 (sung 3 times) *Come and Fill Our Hearts*

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
 Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!*

✠Affirmation of Faith from the Uniting Church in Australia

**We believe that God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all things. We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share. We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a part of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation. We believe that the risen Jesus is Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation and filling the universe. We believe the Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation. We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

p. 35 in the hymnal

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

## 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) and Prayer of Dedication

*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! Amen.*

SENDING

## ✠Hymn 346

*For the Healing of the Nations*

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

*For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;  
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.*

*Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.*

*All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.*

*You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind,  
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.*

## ✠Charge and Benediction

## ✠Postlude

*Yet I Will Rejoice in the Lord*

Robert J. Hughes

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

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Lunch!

### ***Serving in Worship Today:***

Choirmasters: Mary Ann & Larry Casey

Organist: Amy Shirk

Ushers: Karen Johnson, Linda Spratt

Elevator Assistant: Steve Spratt

Sanctuary Guild: Lynn & Preston Simms

Videographer: Ed Foresman

### **Church Family News**

We pray for: Judy Balch

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

810 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

(540) 373-7057 | [www.fredericksburgpc.org](http://www.fredericksburgpc.org)

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

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*Lord of the Small*—Text and Music: Dan Forrest; 2010 Beckenhorst Press

*Come and Fill Our Hearts*—Text and Music: Jacques Berthier, 1982; ©1991; Les Presses de Taize (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

*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

*For the Healing of the Nations* – Text: Fred Kaan, 1965; Music: John Francis Wade, C. 1750; harm. Hymns Ancient & Modern, 1861.

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