

the
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



September 27, 2026, 10:30 am
18th 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

Jupiter

Holst, arr. B. C. Dockery

Wendy Elkins and Tina Christie, flute

Silent prayer of preparation

Yours the seed, yours the growth; yours the water, yours the thirst; yours the wild, yours the tame. You are among us, O God, and with all creation – and you are beyond. Shape and fill us this day with your grace in Jesus' name. Amen.

Introit

I Will Arise Trad. arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw

Call to Worship *based on Psalm 78:1-4*

Liturgist: Bruce Harvey

People of God, bend your ears to God's truth;

We have heard the ancient stories and are not keeping this to ourselves.

Tell of the glorious deeds of the Lord, the marvelous things God has done!

The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

✠Hymn 8

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

*Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm has bound the restless wave,
who bade the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep:*

O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

*O Savior, whose almighty word the winds and waves submissive heard,
who walked upon the foaming deep, and calm amid its rage did sleep:*

O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

*O Holy Spirit, who did brood upon the chaos wild and rude,
and bade its angry tumult cease, and gave, for fierce confusion, peace:*

O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

*O Trinity of love and power, all travelers guard in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them where so e'er they go;
thus evermore shall rise to thee glad praise from air and land and sea.*

✠Prayer of Confession *from the Iona Community*

God of all creation, 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. There is no place in the heavens that cannot be touched by your resurrection presence, for you fill all things. 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 creatures through love. 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: *Exodus 17:1-7*

p. 79 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

Natasha Taylor, Faith Formation Coordinator

Anthem

Down to the River

Trad. arr. Sheldon Curry

*As I went down in the river to pray, studying about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord, show me the way.*

O sisters, let's go down. Let's go down, come on down,

O sisters, let's go down. Down in the river to pray.

. . . O brothers . . . O fathers . . . O mothers . . . O sinners . . .

*As I went down in the river to pray, studying about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the robe and crown? Good Lord, show me the way.*

Scripture Reading: *John 7:37-39*

p. 122 in the pew Bible

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

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 375

*Shall We Gather at the River**Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?**REFRAIN: Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.**On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. [Refrain]**Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. [Refrain]**Soon we'll reach the shining river; soon our pilgrimage will cease,
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. [Refrain]*✠Affirmation of Faith *based on Philippians 2:1-13*

We are united in Christ, comforted in his love, sharing in partnership in the Spirit with tenderness and compassion. Christ makes our joy complete and brings us together in as one. Therefore, we do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility value others above ourselves and look to the interests of others. We seek to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus, who did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, assuming human likeness and humbling himself to the point of death – even death on a cross. God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God. It is God who works in us to will and act in order to fulfill God's good purpose.

Moment for Creation

John Howe

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

My Church, Be Steadfast

Roger C. Wilson

✠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 821 *My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing?)*

during the first verse, children are dismissed to the Ed. Building for Covenant Choir

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

*REFRAIN: No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

What though my joys and comforts die, I know my Savior liveth.

What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. [Refrain]

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!

All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude

Butterflies

Brendan Elliget

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: Ellie Crane, Piper Foresman

Elevator Assistant: Gary Vaughn

Sanctuary Guild: Lynn and Preston Simms

Videographer: Vicky Wilder, Kristen Betsill

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I Will Rise-- Traditional arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw; © Lawson-Gould Music Publisher Inc.

Eternal Father, Strong to Save—Text: William Whiting, 1860, alt; Music: John Bacchus Dykes, 1861; Public domain

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

Down to the River—Text: Arr. Sheldon Curry; Hal Leonard Corporation

Shall We Gather at the River —Text and Music: Robert Lowry, 1864; Public Domain

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

My Life Flows On How Can I Keep From Singing?—Text and Music: Robert Lowry, 1869; Public Domain

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