



SEASON OF CREATION

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

September 28, 2025, 10:30 am
Sixteenth 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 1st 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

Somebody's Knockin'
Jubilate Ringers

Anna Laura Page

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Prayer

God of justice and peace, we gather in your presence, united with all living beings. We come in hope, in worship, and in commitment to live as caretakers of your world. May our prayers rise with siblings around the world, and our worship be a song of love for all Creation. Amen.

Introit

This is the Day
Youth & Adult Choirs

Gerald T. Smith

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Heather Eland

Come, let us worship God, the Creator of all things.

We gather in gratitude for God's creation.

Come, let us follow Jesus Christ, who leads us in the way of righteousness.

**We come to walk in the footsteps of Christ,
seeking healing for creation and peace for all people.**

Come, let us move with the Holy Spirit, poured out upon us,
bringing renewal to the earth.

**We praise the breath of life, who revives the land and calls us to be
peacemakers with all of Creation.**

✠ Hymn 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:*

[Refrain]: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

*For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: [Refrain]*

*For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: [Refrain]*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: [Refrain]*

*For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven: [Refrain]*

✠ Prayer of Confession *adapted from a prayer by Rev. James Bhagwan, Fiji*
Loving God, we have failed you and abused the gift you have given us. Forgive us for betraying your trust. Forgive us for our greed and arrogance. Forgive us for what we have done to your Earth: your land, your oceans, and your creatures – on the land, in the sky, and in the depths. God of life, heal your wounded Earth. Empower us to choose the road that leads to life. Guide us in the paths of righteousness, for your name's sake, so that we may experience once again your Shalom in the land and in the sea. 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

Scripture Readings: <i>1 Timothy 6:6-19</i>	p. 257 in the pew Bible
<i>Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16</i>	p. 674 in the pew Bible

Anthem	<i>Come, Celebrate God's Gift of Music</i>	Mark Patterson
	<i>Covenant Choir</i>	

Moment with the Children

Anthem *When the Morning Stars Together* Hal Hopson
*Voice and instrument in union through the ages spoke your praise.
Plainsong, tuneful hymns, and anthems told your faithful, gracious ways.
Choir and orchestra and organ, each a sacred off'ring brought,
while inspired by your own Spirit, poet and composer wrought.*

Scripture Reading: *Isaiah 32:14-18* p. 808 in the pew Bible
Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Peace with Creation* Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 378 *We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom*
*We wait the peaceful kingdom, when wolf and lamb shall lie
in gentleness and friendship without a fear or sigh,
when lion shall be grazing, when snake shall never strike;
a little child shall lead us both strong and weak alike.*

*Where is the peaceful kingdom? When will this new day start?
We long for peace and comfort to reign within each heart.
Yet not in our lives only, not simply in our home:
we pray that all creation will one day find shalom.*

*When wars of desolation and hate come to an end,
when nation meets with nation and calls the other "friend,"
still peace in all its fullness will only have begun:
shalom for all creation begins with justice done.*

*That little child shall lead us to walk the chosen way,
to share the peaceful kingdom, to greet God's newborn day.
The child born in a stable is sent to break our chains,
to bring through word and table the day when justice reigns.*

✠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.

Dedication of Musicians (see insert)

Mary Ann Casey

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.

✠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! Amen.*

✠Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

✠Hymn 37

Let All Things Now Living

During the last verse, children K-5th grade are dismissed to Covenant Choir.
*Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.*

*By law God enforces, the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;*

*with glad adoration, a song let us raise,
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude *Passacaglia* Gordon Young
Go in peace, holding quiet space for those who wish to reflect and pray.



*The flowers on the pulpit are given by Heather Eland and family
in celebration of
her parents' birthdays, John Howe (9/18) and Barbara Howe (10/5).*

Church Family News

We pray for: Marjolijn Bijlefeld

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

Serving in Worship Today:

Choirmasters: Mary Ann & Larry Casey

Organist: Amy Shirk

Ushers: Paul Leimer, Elizabeth Smith

Elevator Assistant: Bruce Smith

Sanctuary Guild: Lynn and Preston Simms

Videographer: Kristen Betsill

Today's liturgy is adapted from the Season of Creation Celebration Guide 2025: Peace with Creation.

For the Beauty of the Earth--Text: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt.; Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861;

harm. The English Hymnal, 1906; Public Domain

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

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DEDICATION OF MUSICIANS

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

Adult Choir

Kim Baker
Connie Barnes
Sara Broyles
Tina Christie
Sheryl Gerhardt
Jeannette Gibbons
Michelle Gibson
Roy Jarnecke

Les Johnson
Leif Johnston
Bobbie Kerns
Patti Kerns
John LeFebre
Barb LeRoy
Carol Mayer
Mark Mayer

Eleanor McCord
Gail McGhee
Sammy Merrill
Dorothy Mondak
Jacqui Nix
Ginger Oplinger
Anna Oplinger
David Peterson

Theresa Roys
Oscar Sheehe
Alexandra Spaulding
Amy Talmadge
Anne Tarzier
Tim Tarzier
Jennifer Turlington

Jubilate Ringers

Connie Barnes
Jim Christie

Heather Eland
Carole Green
Karen Johnson
Les Johnson

Barb LeRoy
Judy Lowman
Jacqui Nix
Kathy Pecka

Linda Spratt
Heather Staton
Patty Toler

Dolce Flutes

Tina Christie Paul Leimer Heather Staton Cadence Martin Pamela Whipkey

Presbyterian Brass

Cory Koch Trey Talmadge

Youth Ensemble

Anders Bothel
Hailey Bothel

Emerson Bothel
Julie Chewning
Corey Chewning
Jesse Chewning

Nathan Milford
Evelyn Oplinger

Caroline Raska
Jack Valasko
Sam Valasko

Covenant Choir

Caroline Bothel
Braden Dowd
Chase Dowd
Riley Eland

Rowan Eland
Althea Harvey
Eliza Harvey
Owen Hendricks

Theo Hendricks
Penelope Land
Andrew Milford
Oliver Morris

Quinn Morris
Saige Morris
Aubrey Raska
Mary Grace Raska

Amy Shirk, Organist
Mary Ann and Larry Casey, Choirmasters