

the
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



September 6, 2026, 10:30 am
15th 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. This summer, toddlers and preschoolers are invited to join us in the pews for the beginning of worship. After the moment with the children, they may leave with staff and volunteers to play on the playground or in the nursery on the first 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

Quiet Peace

Edward Broughton

Silent prayer of preparation

Holy God, we gather as part of your community of all creation, thirsty for your grace. Stir in us a calling to care for your waters. Sustain us in the desert, refresh us for the work of restoration, and carry us on currents of grace through Christ our Lord, who is Living Water. Amen.

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Chelsea Land

In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters.

And God called them good.

Come, Holy Spirit and cleanse the waters.

The prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple,
and wherever the river flowed, everything lived.

Come, Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth.

Jesus cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me . . .
out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

Come Holy Spirit, and heal your people.

✠Hymn 401

Here in This Place (Gather Us In)

Here in this place the new light is streaming;

now is the darkness vanished away;

see in this space our fears and our dreamings

brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;

call to us now and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery.

We are the old who yearn for your face.

We have been sung throughout all of history,

called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;

give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water;

here we will take the bread of new birth.

Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,

call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;

nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away:

here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;

gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

✠Prayer of Confession

We look upon your waters, O God, and we grieve: rivers run polluted, oceans choke with plastic, marine life disappears from warming seas, coral reefs fade and fisheries collapse. We lament that we have neglected your gift of creation and taken the waters for granted. The seas rise and swallow coasts. Storms grow stronger. Floods destroy homes. Drought cracks the Earth and children thirst. We confess that we have not guarded your waters. We have consumed without restraint and polluted what you called good. We have forgotten that the river of life flows from your throne. Forgive us and mark us agents of healing for the good of your creation through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. 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: *Psalms 65:5-13*

p. 649 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

Natasha Taylor, Faith Formation Coordinator

Anthem

At the River

Aaron Copland

Scripture Reading: *Ezekiel 47:1-12*

p. 1001 in the pew Bible

This is the word of faith that we proclaim. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Living Water

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 484

Out of the Deep, Unordered Water

*Out of deep, unordered water God created light and land,
world of bird and beast and, later, in God's image, woman, man.
There is water in the river bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver: there is water in the font.*

*Water on the human forehead, birthmark of the love of God,
is the sign of death and rising; through the seas there runs a road.
There is water in the river bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver: there is water in the font.*

*Standing round the font reminds us of the Hebrews' climb ashore.
Life is hallowed by the knowledge: God has been this way before.
There is water in the river bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver: there is water in the font.*

✠Affirmation of Faith from *Lutheran Theological College, South India*, adapted
**We believe in God, who creates all things, who embraces all things,
who celebrates all things, who is present in every part of the fabric
of creation. We believe in God as the source of all life, who baptizes
this planet with living water. We believe in Jesus Christ, seen in the
suffering one, the poor one, the malnourished one, the climate
refugee - who loves and cares for this world and suffers with it. And
we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life, who came to reconcile
and renew this world and everything in it. We believe in the Holy
Spirit, the breath of God, who moves with God and who moves
among and with us today. We believe in everlasting life in God. And
we believe in the hope that one day God will put an end to death and
all destructive forces.**

Moment for Creation

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

... 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.

✠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 840 *When Peace like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)*

*When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
REFRAIN: It is well with my soul; it is well; it is well with my soul.*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]*

*He lives: O the bliss of this glorious thought.
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]*

*Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. [Refrain]*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude

Recessional

Stanley Saxton

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: Michele Coffman, Chuck Penick

Elevator Assistant: Paul Kukla

Sanctuary Guild: Lynn and Preston Simms

Videographers: Jerry Zekert, Les Johnson

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Here in This Place Gather Us In—Text: Marty Haugen, 1979; Text and Music: GIA Publications, Inc.; © 1982

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

At the River—Text: Robert Lowry; Music: Aaron Copland ©1954 Aaron Copland Fund for Music

Out of Deep, Unordered Water—Text Fred Kaan, 1965; Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1897; Hope Publishing Company © 1968

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

When Peace like a River (It Is Well with My Soul) —Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1876, alt.; Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1876; Public Domain

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