A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
The Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

November 6, 2022  8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.
Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING . . .

The Prelude
Chorale Meditation
Gilbert M. Martin

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit
Let All Things Now Living
Psalm 145

We will bless God’s name every day, forever and ever.
God’s greatness is unsearchable. One generation will tell the next of God’s mighty acts.
God is faithful and gracious in word and deed.
Bless God’s holy name forever and ever.

The Prayer of Adoration

Wondrous are your works, O God, and your promises are sure. We give thanks for all the
blessings of this life and for the beauty of the earth. We thank you for the promise of the life to
come and the joy we shall know. In awe and praise, we dedicate ourselves to giving glory to your
name and working for your purposes until your heavenly realm fills all in all. Amen.

*The Hymn 234
Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain
Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness! God has brought forth Israel into joy
from sadness, loosed from Pharaoh’s bitter yoke Jacob’s sons and daughters;
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.
‘Tis the spring of souls today; Christ has burst his prison, and from three days’ sleep in death
as a sun has risen. All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying from the Light,
to whom we give laud and praise undying.
Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts comes its joy to render; comes to glad Jerusalem,
who with true affection welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus’ resurrection!
Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb’s dark portal, nor the watchers,
nor the seal hold you as a mortal: but today, among your own, you appear,
bestowing your deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.

*The Prayer of Confession
God of life, forgive us when we take the goodness of life for granted. Forgive us when we waste
our days on things which cannot satisfy; when we are preoccupied and consumed by that which
passes quickly. Help us to see what you are doing in the world, O God, so that we may do our part
faithfully and well. Forgive us when we flag in zeal, grow complacent, or lose hope. God of
resurrection, help us to live as those who believe in newness, welcoming the fresh winds of your
Spirit in our midst. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon
The psalmist declares that when we pour out our hearts to God,
we may trust that God is our refuge.

We trust in God’s mercy and grace, made known to us in Jesus Christ.
We live as God’s forgiven people. Alleluia! Amen.

*The Gloria Patri
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen
The Peace and Greeting
The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you!
(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshiping at home, please share Christ’s peace with someone outside Your home this week.)

Minute for Stewardship
Raska Family
Theado Family

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: Haggai 1:15b-2:9

The Psalter Lesson: Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21

The Anthem
Handel/Hopson

Come, sing, rejoice, let all make music to God above.
Sing songs of grateful praise, your joyful anthems raise.
The mighty standing seas, the mountains and the trees, show forth God’s love.
Let all the people praise, O praise the Lord!
God’s mighty hand we see in all the earth.
Sing songs of joy forever more, sing praise to God!

The Epistle Lesson: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17. p. 251 in the pew Bible

A Moment with the Children

*The Hymn 301
Let Us Build a House

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God’s children dare to seek to dream God’s reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God’s grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat; a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us all: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they’ve known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s face; let us bring an end to fear and danger: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.


The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Sermon
Finding Our Courage
Kim Clayton

TO RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD. . .

* The Affirmation of Faith

Across the centuries since the church was founded, the Spirit has formed and identified it. We recognize the true church of Jesus Christ wherever the work of the Spirit is evident: in preaching and sacraments, in the new life and continuous growth of believers, in the sharing of spiritual gifts and material things, in mission and service to the world. The boundaries of the church are not clearly known to us, but God knows those who are God’s own. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.
The Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD’S NAME. . .

*The Hymn 321

The Church’s One Foundation

The church’s one Foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord. She is his new creation by water and the word. From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride. With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation yet one o’er all the earth, her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.

One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder this world sees
Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed, by schisms rent a sunder, by heresies distressed, yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: “How long?” And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war, she waits the consummation of peace forever more: till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:

O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

*The Charge & Benediction

Postlude

Toccata

Please be seated in personal reflection until the Postlude ends.
Announcements for November 2-November 9

Stewardship Campaign

for such a time as this

Esther 4:14: Who knows? Perhaps you have come...for just such a time as this.

The Book of Esther is a story composed in the 4th century, B.C.E. set in the Persian Empire. The Jewish people have been living as displaced, scattered people throughout this vast empire. This story is playful, full of plot twists and turns. Though God’s name is never directly mentioned, the story makes it clear that God is the moving force in a series of ironic ‘coincidences’ that end up saving the Jewish people from destruction. The happy ending is summed up in 8:16: “For the Jews there was light and gladness, joy and honor.”

Here is the story of Esther in six sentences:

The Persian King wants a new wife, so he arranges a contest to find the most beautiful woman in the kingdom.
He chooses Esther, whom no one knows is Jewish, and makes her Queen.
Meanwhile, Esther’s uncle, Mordecai, repeatedly refuses to bow down before the king’s right-hand man in the city streets, so the official writes an order, offering a bounty to everyone who hunts down and kills Jews throughout the empire; the king says, “Whatever…”
Esther learns what is happening from Mordecai and says she will not let this happen, even if it means she will perish.
Looking completely irresistible, Esther throws two feasts for the king who, in gratitude and love, promises to give her anything she requests, which is that the order to kill Jews, her people, be revoked and the king says, “Okay.”
The bad official dies; the good people, and Esther and Mordecai especially, win; and the Jewish people say, “Let’s party!”

To this day, the Festival of Purim is one of the most exuberant and fun Jewish holidays. It includes feasting and giving gifts to one another and to the poor in gratitude for God’s salvation.

Stewardship 2022 “For such a time as this.”

Our Stewardship theme from Esther encourages each of us to do our part “for such a time as this.” We’ve come through the challenges of the global pandemic that disrupted our life together but also encouraged us to find creative new ways of worshipping, learning, and staying connected. We are now in the intentional, interim time between installed pastors, offering us an opportunity to assess where we are and imagine the new vision God has in store for us. Your joyful, courageous, and generous participation for such a time as this is needed as we plan for our ministries and mission in 2023!

Over the next several weeks, Moments for Stewardship will be offered in worship. Stewardship Messages will appear in the Wednesday emails. Stewardship letters with pledge cards arrive in early November. You may pledge through Realm or return your pledge card early, and we will formally dedicate our pledges on Sunday, December 4th in both worship services.

God has seen us through all the twists and turns over these last two-and-a-half years! In thanksgiving for God’s steadfast love and faithfulness, we respond with light, gladness, joy and honor. For such a time as this, your prayerful pledge of time, talents, and financial resources are needed.

Kim Clayton
**Weekly Meetings & Activities**

Wed. (11/2) — Meditation Group, 6pm (Zoom)

Thurs. (11/3) — Ladies Morning Bible Study, 9:30am (MH)
Handbells, 6:00pm (Sanct. Balcony)

Fri. (11/4) — CCC Trivia Night

Sun. (11/6) — Worship, 8:30am (Sanct./Youtube)
LIFT Hour, 9:45am (FH)
Worship, 11am (Sanct.)
Sunday Lunch, 12pm (FH)
Youth Group, 12pm (FH)
PW Neverending Circle, 2pm (Conf. rm)

Mon. (11/7) — PW Circle of Joyful Friendship, 10:30am (Parlor)
Keep it Moving Body and Soul, 3:15pm (FH)

Tues. (11/8) — Men’s Breakfast Group, 7:30am (Conf.rm)
PW Circle of Prayer, 1:30pm (Conf. Rm)

Wed. (11/9) — Meditation Group, 6pm (Zoom)
Finance Committee, 7pm (Conf. Rm)

**Church Family News:**

**Capsule of Concern:** Bobbie Kerns, Doris Glidden, Doris Gulatsu, Lou Silvey

**Birthdays this week Nov 2-Nov 9**

2 Scott Fischer, Ann Lewis, Cindy Hughes, Ann Warner, Richard Garner, Kathy Rocholl, Mackenzie Sullivan
3 Ben Fidler, Adam Nelen
4 Jim Christie
5 Betsy Lewis, Robin Joel, Sam Valasko
6 Lynn Simms, Zach Whalen
7 Bill Garner, Paul Kukla, Gary Shockey, Walter Personius
8 Trudy Mcnatt, Avery Foresman, Erik Fino
9 Quinn Morris

**Looking Ahead:**

Nov: Sign up for Suppers for Seven
December 7 - Pints and Parables, 7:00pm at 6 Bears and a Goat
December 8 - Make Space for Advent opens
December 9 - Food Truck and Christmas movie night, 6:00-8:00
December 18 - Lessons in Carols, 11:00 am worship service

**Sunday Lunch!!**

*Sunday Lunch will continue this Sunday,* immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service. Come enjoy a provided lunch and fellowship. There is no cost; but donations will be accepted. No reservation needed, simply come as you are! Members and visitors are all welcome!

It’s the first Sunday of the Month—All ages will meet together in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate Esther “for such a time as this.”

**Sunday November 13, the Faith and Movies Class** will discuss *Tango Shalom* (2021). *Tango Shalom* may be rented or purchased from Amazon.

**Sunday November 20,** the Faith and Movies Class will discuss *The Pilgrims: American Experience* (2015). *The Pilgrims* is available from the Library, Amazon (rental or purchase), and may be streamed with a PBS Passport.

**Ladies Thursday Morning Bible Study.** You are welcome to join us on Thursday mornings at 9:30 am in the Middle House for fellowship and discussion of *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water and Loving Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. In this bible study, we will investigate how to better understand what the Bible is and how it is meant to be read. Stories of Origin, Deliverance, War, Wisdom, Resistance, Gospel, Fish, and Church are presented for study and consideration. Contact Jen Rowe or Debe Garrison for additional information.
Mission/Outreach

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

This year our church will continue to assist Fredericksburg City Schools with providing Thanksgiving Boxes for families in need. Our congregation will provide 20 boxes. Families or groups can sign up to provide all the items for one box by calling the church office.

Please bring items to the CE Building Lobby no later than Sunday morning, November 13 and place them in the bin labeled Thanksgiving Baskets.

At 1:00, Sunday, November 13, we will partner with Beth Sholom Temple and The Islamic Center to pack and decorate boxes in the Fellowship Hall. Families are welcome and encouraged to participate in this activity.

We will deliver boxes to Lafayette Upper Elementary School, Saturday, November 19. If you would like to help with delivery, contact Bill Nix, chair of the Outreach Committee.

These are the items for one basket/box:

- 2 cans of corn
- 2 cans of green beans
- 1 can of mixed vegetables or other canned vegetables
- 1 can of gravy
- 1 can of cranberry sauce
- 1 box or a bag of stuffing mix
- 1 box of instant mashed potatoes or a bag of potatoes
- 1 bag of rice or a box of macaroni and cheese
- 1 bag of dinner rolls
- Pumpkin/fruit pie or a ready to make pie crust with pumpkin or pie filling.
- 1 box of cake mix and frosting.

Please feel free to include any additional Thanksgiving items if you wish.

Cold Weather Shelter (CWS) Mission Volunteer Opportunities

If you are willing to be a CWS volunteer for a Wednesday night this Winter, please fill out the form located under the SERVE tab on our Church’s website. If you have any questions about being a volunteer, please contact Bill Nix at: bnixatc@aol.com or 540-848-5106.

Calling all bakers! Pies are needed, for both dessert and to give away, at the November 19th Community Dinner. Please contact Karen Johnson, ksjohnson422@msn.com, (540) 621-5685 if you would like to donate a pie or help at the dinner.

Don’t Forget! Time Changes November 6th.