

Faithful with God's gifts

Recognizing what we've received.

Sharing what we have.

Making God's work possible.



Montevallo Presbyterian Church

October 4, 2026

World Communion Sunday

Prelude “Solace (A Mexican Serenade)” (by Scott Joplin)
Pianist, Magnus Eck

Welcome and Invitation to Worship Pastor, Rev. Rachel Van Kirk Mathews

Introit 708 “We Give Thee but Thine Own” MPC Choir

Call to Worship Liturgist, Maria Serrano

For gathering us here,

For the beauty of creation,

We praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

For the freedom to live as a child of God,

Knowing creation is held in your hands,

We praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

For our daily bread,

And all that we can share with those in need,

We praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Opening Prayer

Hymn #346 For the Healing of the Nations

Call to Confession

Liturgist, Maria Serrano

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist, Maria Serrano

O God, we long to be faithful stewards of your abundant grace, to serve each other in love and humility, to serve your world with wisdom and energy. Forgive us when our faith grows small. Help us to truly believe that reconciliation, forgiveness, justice, and healing are possible. Forgive us for focusing too much on the negative, on what's gone wrong, what's happened in the past, and all that we don't have. Help us see through your eyes, catch a vision for what's possible, and share what we see with each other. Help us Help us to believe in the good news of Jesus Christ- there is always hope in God.

~ silent prayer ~

The liturgist pours water into the font in remembrance of our baptism.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Liturgist, Maria Serrano

Musical Response

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now
and ever shall be. Amen.***

The Peace

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading- Genesis 18:1-14 (NRSV)

Liturgist, Maria Serrano

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?” The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm Reading Psalm 146 (NRSV)

Liturgist, Maria Serrano

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes,

in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

Anthem “Lord of All Good” (711) MPC Choir

Second Scripture Reading 2 Corinthians 9:1-9 (NRSV)
Rev. Rachel Van Kirk Mathews

Now it is not necessary for me to write you about the ministry to the saints, for I know your eagerness, which is the subject of my boasting about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them. But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you may not prove to have been empty in this case, so that you may be ready,

as I said you would be; otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be put to shame—to say nothing of you—in this undertaking. So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a bountiful gift and not as an extortion.

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, “He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”

For the Word of God in scripture,
 For the Word of God among us,
 For the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Works without Faith

Rev. Rachel Van Kirk Mathews

Hymn

#761 Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Minute for Mission

Stewardship

Chip Lajeunesse

Announcements and Invitations to Discipleship

Prayers of the People

Rev. Rachel Van Kirk Mathews

Offering

Offertory

“What a Wonderful World” (Arr. Bob Thiele / George David Weiss)

Pianist, Magnus Eck

Doxology #609

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Sacrament of Communion

The Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(minister continues...)

Amen.

(minister continues...)

Our Father who art in heaven...

Communion of the People

*During the distribution of the elements,
the people may sing Come to the Table of Grace*

Prayer after Communion

A Time for Children

#487

“These Treasured Children”

These treasured children present now

are bound to us by sacred vow:

with love, we make a heartfelt claim

to welcome them in Jesus' name.

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

#80 "You Shall Go Out with Joy"

Congregation

***You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
and the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;
the trees of the field will clap their hands;
the trees of the field will clap their hands
while you go out with joy.***