



Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP
Holy One,
you empty yourself
and make room for me.
In my empty places,
my wounds and losses,
you become obedient even to death,
and you rise with me.
I open myself to you.

PRELUDE

Prelude in G

Ian Higginson

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Charlotte Lovett

Why do you come to this place?

We seek the path of righteousness and truth.

Do you come ready to hear and learn giving attention to God's
Word?

**We come with open hearts and minds seeking to learn from the
one whose authority is founded on God's love.**

Friends, lend your ears and open your hearts because this is God's
house, built by love and sustained by hope, where God seeks to align
our work and witness.

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Eternal God, we come before you aware that you know the truth of our hearts before we can utter a word. You know when our good intentions exceed our capacity for gospel living. You know when we embrace the good news of liberation with our lips but don't change our actions. We imprison ourselves with the assumption that you will judge us as mercilessly as we often judge ourselves and one another.

Forgive our shortcomings and the times we have failed to live the words we say. Restore us in the confidence of people who have heard good news and remind us that even when we arrive late, there is still work to be done. Amen.

(Time for silent reflection)

Friends, believe this good news, in Christ we are new creations.
We are forgiven; we are set free; and we are made ready to live the living Word.

*THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Glory to God

Hymnal, No. 582

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

World without end, without end. Amen (x3)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

Page No. 954

Philippians 2:1-13

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 25:1-9

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

ANTHEM

The Servant Song

Richard Gillard

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:23-32

Page No. 802

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Will it be Yes or No?

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Hymnal, No. 69

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen**
(Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

*Please pray the Lord's Prayer
in the language and wording most familiar to you.*

THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Give Thanks

Hymnal, No. 647

Give thanks with a grateful heart;
Give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because we're given
Jesus Christ, the Son. (repeat)

And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
Let the poor say, "We are rich
because of what the Lord has done for us!" (repeat)

Give thanks. Give thanks.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG Go in Grace and Make Disciples Hymnal, No. 296

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE March Ian Higginson

*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for October 4: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 and Psalm 19
Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46.

The Food & Shelter items **for September are individually packaged snacks and razors**. Please place your donations in the box by the coffee and snacks.

Mark your calendars for World Communion Sunday, October 4. You are welcome to bring a dish to share for the potluck following worship, or, just stay for good food!