
Gathering those who fear they are not enough,
so we may experience grace, wholeness, and renewal as God's beloved.



Ascension, Father Georges Saget, 1963

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

Our task as image-bearing, God-loving, Christ-shaped, Spirit-filled Christians, following Christ and shaping our world, is to announce redemption to a world that has discovered its fallenness, to announce healing to a world that has discovered its brokenness, to proclaim love and trust to a world that knows only exploitation, fear and suspicion...

– N.T. Wright

We Gather to Praise God

PRELUDE AND RINGING OF THE BELL

Morning Song

arr. Joseph Martin (b. 1959)

*** WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: This is the day the Lord has made.

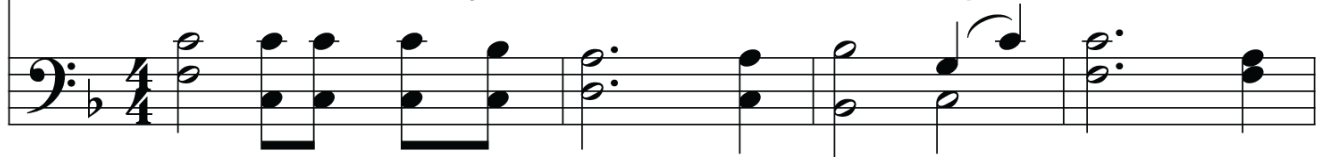
ALL: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*** HYMN 628** (verse 1)

Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord



1 Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart. O
2 Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart. O
3 Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart. O



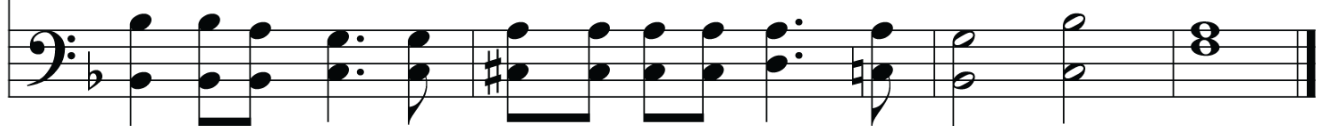
God, I will tell the won-ders of your ways, and glo-ri - fy your name.



Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart. In
Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart. In
Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart. In



you I will find the source of all my joy. Al - le - lu - ia!



TEXT: Claude Frayssé, 1975; English trans. Kenneth I. Morse, 1988
MUSIC: Claude Frayssé, 1975; harm. Alain Bergèse, 1976

JE LOUERAÏ L'ÉTERNEL
Irregular

** Please stand in body or spirit*

DRAW NEAR TO GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE

Lord Jesus, you call us to be your witnesses, those who tell the world your ways
and show the world how to live them.

But we confess that we are reluctant witnesses. We often privatize our faith,
neither telling of it nor showing it by our lives.

Forgive us, and call us once more to be your witnesses.

Send the Holy Spirit to empower and equip us for the work you give us to do.

Silence for personal reflection

SUNG RESPONSE

Kyrie eleison (Lord, Have Mercy)

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: J. Christopher Pardini, 2005

Music © 2011 Birnamwood Publications (a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.)

KYRIE ELEISON (Pardini)

RECEIVE GOD'S LOVE, GRACE, AND PEACE

* SING GLORY TO GOD

Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise e - ter - nal
as God's love, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise our God ye heav'n - ly host,
Al - le - lu - ia! Fa - ther, Son, and
Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

We Listen for God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC

How Firm a Foundation

Molly Ijames (b. 1978)

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 1:6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." ¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room

upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

FAITHFUL WITNESSES

James Sledge

We Respond to God's Word

* **HYMN 286** (verse 1)

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
 4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
 un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
 un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
 but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the words for "spirit" can equally well be translated as "breath" or "wind," so it is very appropriate to address the Holy Spirit as the "Breath of God." This tune by an English organist has become the customary one in North American hymnals.

* RESPONSE OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Diane Walton Hendricks

ONE: Lord in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

The Prayers of the People are offered on behalf of and with the congregation, usually by an elder currently serving on Session (governing council) or other members of the congregation.

Please keep in your prayers...

Bob Huley and family on the death of Merry Huley on May 13

Nancy and Mike Gehron, as Nancy's father transitions to a memory care facility and Mike's father enters hospice care

Comfort for Bob Moore, diagnosed with Covid-19, and strength for Carol Bentley Hayden Beatty, father of Daniel Beatty, in the hospital with an infection

Janet Bickel, recovering at home following back surgery

The memory of Alfred Karam, late husband of Samira Karam

Those who have lost jobs as a result of the coronavirus pandemic

Staff and residents of elder care facilities everywhere

Brenda Buchly, recovering after a fall

First responders, health care providers, caregivers, essential employees, and all who are putting their lives at risk during the coronavirus pandemic

Continued prayers for...

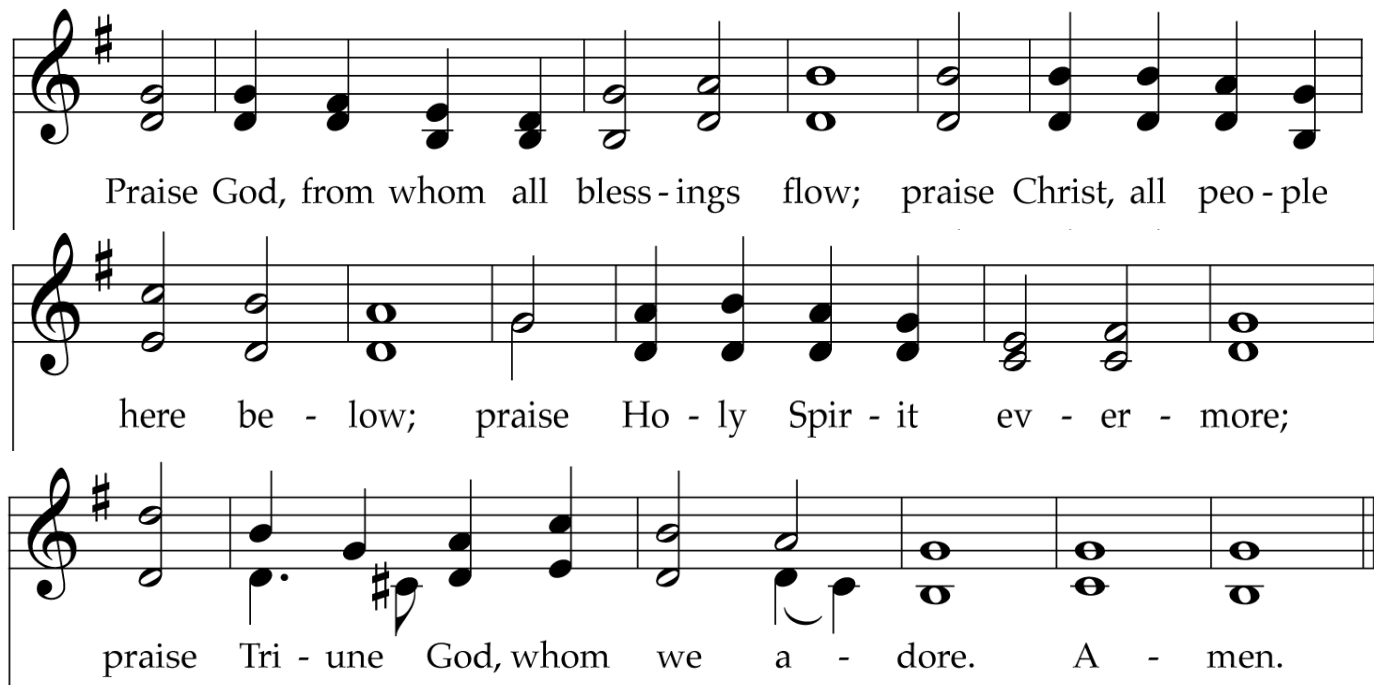
Doug Ammons, Paige Bach, Kris Barth, Chuck and Marty Campbell, Judy Cornier, Soledad Cuzzi, Sgt. John R. Goldsmith, Steve Graff, Mike Hugo, Linda Issaacson, Doug Jonas, Nora Long, Nancy Lundien, Ruth Mileham, Cheryl Naderman, Ruth Nowjack-Raymer, Barbara Peret, Cort Peret, Stanley Rusher, James Steele, Cathy Stewart, Lawson Swift, Doris Webb, Doris Williams, Christa Young

Prayer requests can be sent to Pastors James and Diane at prayers@fallschurchpresby.org

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offertory

* DOXOLOGY



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Christ, all peo-ple
here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;
praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

TEXT: Neil Weatherhogg, 1988

MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

Text © 1990 Neil Weatherhogg

OLD HUNDREDTH

LM

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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.

*** HYMN 744** (verse 1)

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974
MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894
Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

FESTAL SONG
SM
(this tune in a lower key, 815)

*** OUR LIFE TOGETHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST**

*** CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Be Still, My Soul

arr. David Dubiel (contemporary)

Songs reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-721003

Supporting us in Worship

Audio/Video
Musicians

Diane Maloney
Lisa Bloy, piano; Andrew Jonas, saxophone;
David Schoonover, baritone

Falls Church Presbyterian belongs to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, “working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.”

The Rev. James Sledge, Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Diane Walton Hendricks, Pastor for Spiritual Growth
Diane Maloney, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry
The Rev. Megan Klose, Parish Associate
The Rev. Rusty Lynn, Hon. Ret., Parish Associate
Dr. Lisa A. Billingham, Chancel Choir Director
Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

This Week at FCPC

May 24-31, 2020

ONLINE WORSHIP, CLASSES, MEETINGS

Worship Services – Sundays at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. Join us for online worship at www.fallschurchpresby.org/livestream or on our [FCPC Facebook page](#).

Good Omens Class – Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Led by Chuck Anderson. The last class will cover the sixth and final episode of the Amazon miniseries based on the book, *Good Omens*, by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett.

[Zoom Meeting ID: 873 6571 7492](#)

Virtual Fellowship Hour – Sundays at noon. Hosted by Morgan Freeman.

[Zoom Meeting ID: 919 9132 3252](#)

Tuesday Morning Prayer – Tuesdays at 8:45 a.m. Led by Diane Walton Hendricks.

[Zoom Meeting ID: 104 294 101](#)

Family Table at Home – Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Led by Diane Maloney.

[Zoom Meeting ID: 374 023 830](#) PLEASE NOTE: No Family Table meeting May 27.

Saturday Bible Study Group – Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. Led by Tom Koger.

[Zoom Meeting ID: 972 0316 4309](#)

God sightings. You are invited to share a photo that captures a time or place where you have experienced God. It might be a photo of something in creation, or a person or relationship. Photos submitted by noon each Wednesday will be considered for use at the opening of our virtual worship services. Email images to [Diane Walton Hendricks](#).

New online Bible study. By popular demand, Pastor James will be leading a Zoom Bible study on the book of Revelation beginning June 1. *The Revelation to John: Words of Hope and Promise for the Church*, is a nine-session study that will meet Mondays and Thursdays at 3 p.m. Revelation is badly misunderstood by many Christians. It was not written to predict the end of the world, but to offer hope and guidance to Christians who were facing great difficulties. Given the uncertainties and anxieties of our present time, perhaps this is a good time to take another look, or a first look, at the final work in the Christian canon. [Download the study here](#).

Gathering Groups have begun. Gathering Groups are a community coming together to grow in our relationships to each other and to God in these times when we must keep physically distant. We are reflecting on the theme of Gratitude. [You can access the videos and discussion guides here](#).

Questions? Contact Diane Walton Hendricks. **Join in Gratitude:** Even if you have chosen not to participate in Gathering Groups, you are invited to watch the videos and reflect on the study guide on your own.

Flowers for Merry. Longtime FCPC member Merry Huley, who died May 13, was a leader of the Flower Committee for many years. In honor of Merry and her love of flowering things, a Google Photos album was created and shared with the Huley family. You are invited to [view the album here](#) and upload a flower to “Merry’s Bouquet.”

FCPC’s Justice Ministry Team has shared a list of books from BookRiot.com to help understand current social justice movements. From their website: *We all bring different backgrounds to our experience of social justice. Some of us have particular connections to political movements from our childhood or adulthood. Others have just uncovered the story of a single person’s experience of injustice, and we’re hungry for more context. We turn to historical books for this context.* [Click here](#) for the list.

Church giving during COVID-19. Even though there aren’t many people at the church these days, the cost of being the church remains. We are still paying bills and salaries, still helping people who need assistance. And so we hope you will continue to make your offerings [online](#) or by mailing them to the church office. But if this crisis has suddenly changed your financial situation, we understand. What most people call “pledge cards” are actually labeled “Estimate of Giving.” Such estimates are based on the income you expected, and if that has changed, please do not feel bad about adjusting your giving accordingly. And please let us know if you need some assistance.

Pastoral care during social distancing. If you or your loved one is in need of pastoral care, [James Sledge](#) and [Diane Walton Hendricks](#) are both available. And if you are at-risk from COVID-19, please let the pastors or [deacons](#) know if we can offer you support with specific tasks such as grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions, or other things that might put you at risk.

Crossing Paths is a daily email designed to be a way to stay connected to each other, our community, and God. Crossing Paths are simple, daily reflections shared by the Falls Church Presbyterian community, available by email and on our Facebook page, Instagram, and Twitter. If you would like to share a prayer, poem, or scripture passage to be included in Crossing Paths, email [Diane Walton Hendricks](#). Your submission could be written by you, or something that has inspired you or recently brought you love, joy, or hope.

Family Table at Home is a resource offering a daily scripture passage, discussion questions, suggestions on ways to get creative, and a prayer. If you would like to receive the Family Table at Home email, contact [Diane Maloney](#). NOTE: Family Table at Home will take a break May 25-29.