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

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*Take Up Your Cross, Gary Bunt, 2016*

## **PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP**

*We have never preached violence, except the violence of love, which left Christ nailed to a cross, the violence that we must each do to ourselves to overcome our selfishness and such cruel inequalities among us. The violence we preach is not the violence of the sword, the violence of hatred. It is the violence of love, of brotherhood, the violence that wills to beat weapons into sickles for work.*

— Oscar Romero

## ***We Gather to Praise God***

### **PRELUDE AND RINGING OF THE BELL**

*Meditation from "Thais"*

Jules Massenet (1842-1912)

### **WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

# HYMN 41 (vv. 1 and 5)

*O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!*

1 O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove!  
 2 O tell of God's might; O sing of God's grace,  
 3 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,  
 4 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?  
 5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

O grate - ful - ly sing God's power and God's love:  
 whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space,  
 Al - might - y, your power has found - ed of old;  
 It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;  
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;

our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
 whose char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form;  
 es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,  
 it streams from the hills; it de - scends to the plain,  
 your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.  
 and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.  
 and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.  
 our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend.

## DRAW NEAR TO GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE

Loving God, our world is so broken, so filled with hate and violence and pain.  
People commit appalling horrors in your name, horrors that have left us scarred.  
We confess that these horrors tempt us to hate rather than love,  
and we struggle to trust that the way of Jesus is the right way.  
Merciful God, ignore our doubts, and increase our faith.  
Help us to get behind Jesus and follow where he leads.  
Fill us with your Spirit, that we may show the world your life-giving love.

*Silence for personal reflection*

## SUNG RESPONSE

*Come and Fill Our Hearts with Your Peace*

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

TEXT and MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1982

Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

Irregular

## RECEIVE GOD'S LOVE, GRACE, AND PEACE

## SING GLORY TO GOD

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

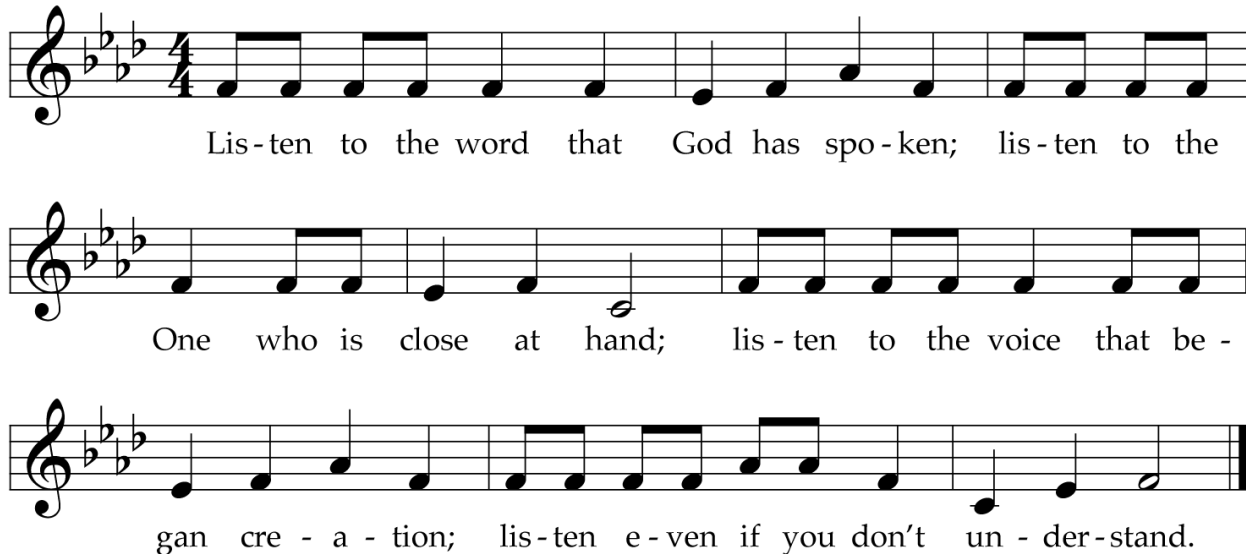
## PASSING THE PEACE

ONE: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

## We Listen for God's Word

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION



Lis - ten to the word that God has spo - ken; lis - ten to the

One who is close at hand; lis - ten to the voice that be -

gan cre - a - tion; lis - ten e - ven if you don't un - der - stand.

TEXT: Anon. Canadian, alt.

MUSIC: Anon. Canadian; adapt. Church Hymnary, 4th Edition, 2005

LISTEN

10.10.11.10

### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Proverbs 1:20-33

*<sup>20</sup>Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.<sup>21</sup>At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: <sup>22</sup>“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? <sup>23</sup>Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you.<sup>24</sup>Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded, <sup>25</sup>and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, <sup>26</sup>I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you, <sup>27</sup>when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. <sup>28</sup>Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but will not find me. <sup>29</sup>Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, <sup>30</sup>would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, <sup>31</sup>therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices. <sup>32</sup>For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them; <sup>33</sup>but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”*

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

*Shall We Gather at The River*

arr. Mark Hayes (b 1953)

## SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 8:27-38

*<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. <sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” <sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”*

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

## SERMON

GETTING BEHIND JESUS

James Sledge

***We Respond to God’s Word***

# HYMN 718 (vv. 1 and 4)

*Take up Your Cross, the Savior Said*

1 Take up your cross, the Sav - ior said, if  
2 Take up your cross; let not its weight fill  
3 Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and  
4 Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and

you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with  
your weak spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength shall bear your  
let your fool - ish pride be still; the Lord for you ac -  
calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a -

will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.  
spir - it up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.  
cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.  
bun - dant life and leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.

Written by a nineteen-year-old in Connecticut, this challenging text has been widely printed on both sides of the Atlantic. It is strengthened by its resolute repetition of the same four words at the beginning of each stanza and by the appropriately stark shape note tune.

TEXT: Charles William Everest, 1833, alt.  
MUSIC: Attr. Freeman Lewis, 1814; harm. John Leon Hooker, 1984  
Music Harm. © 1984 John Leon Hooker

BOURBON  
LM

## 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.

## MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Godly Play Storyteller

Carlin Schwartz

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Myra Bridgforth

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.*

### *Prayers of concern*

Marnie Sarver, at home recovering from surgery after a fall

Tommy McMahan, Tom Koger's cousin, at home recovering from pneumonia

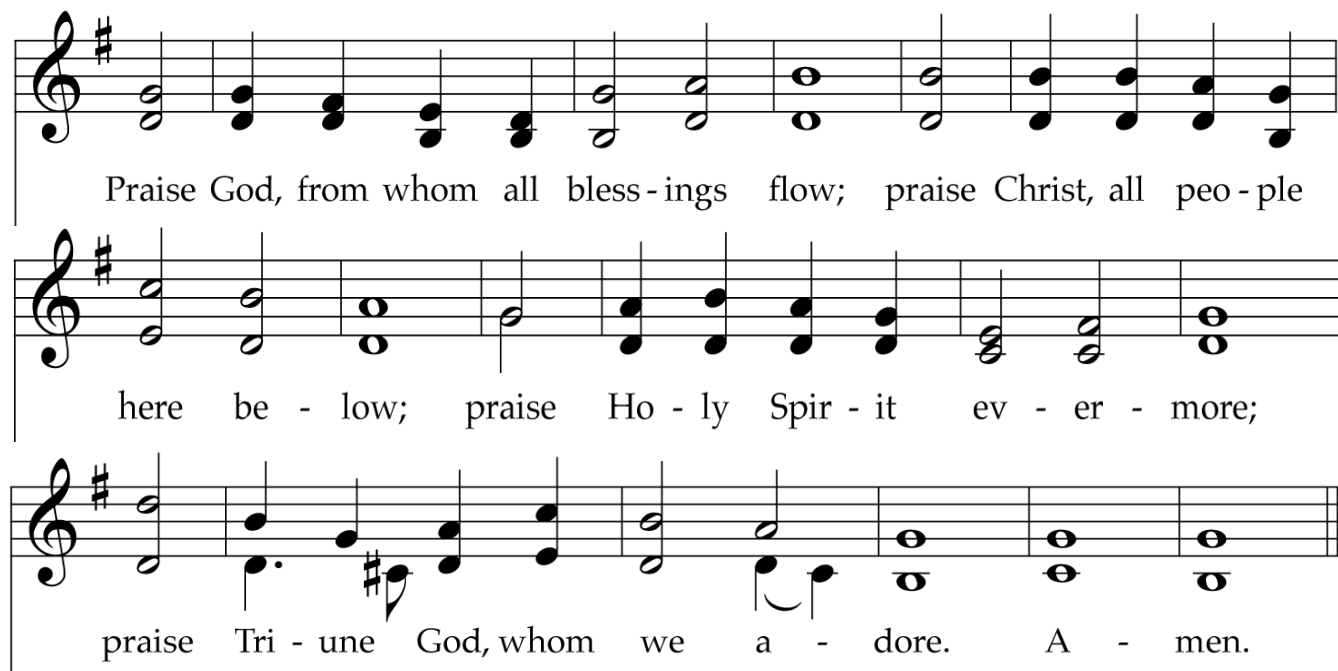
### *Continued prayers*

Kris Barth, Callie Brown, Allan Capon, Chet DeLong, Geisinger family,  
Steve Graff, Emma Corina Granado, Mike Hugo, Nora Long, Sandy Martin,  
Ruth Mileham, Bob Moore, Cort Peret, Sabra Staley, James Steele, Lawson Swift,  
Charles Wirth, Christa Young

*Prayer requests can be sent to Pastor James at [prayers@fallschurchpresby.org](mailto:prayers@fallschurchpresby.org).*

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

### 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 741 (vv. 1, 2, and 4)

## Guide My Feet

1 Guide my feet while I run this race;  
(yes, my Lord!)

guide my feet while I run this race;  
(yes, my Lord!)

guide my feet while I run this race, for I

don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

2 Hold my hand ...

5 Search my heart ...

3 Stand by me ...

6 Guide my feet ...

4 I'm your child ...

# OUR LIFE TOGETHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

## CHARGE AND BLESSING

## POSTLUDE

*Matronslied*

Edward Grieg (1843-1907)

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### ***Supporting us in Worship***

Worship Leader	Myra Bridgforth
Audio/Video	Andrew Jonas, Diane Maloney
Music	Cynthian Knight
Ushers	Edward Newburn, Marsha Schuyler
Sanctuary Flowers	The flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Nancy Butt Packard and Will Packard in celebration of 30 years of marriage.

### ***A Warm Welcome***

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning, whether you are with us online or in person. If you would like to learn more about our community of faith, please [visit the church website](#).

*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  
Diane Maloney, Director of Spiritual Growth and Community Engagement  
The Rev. Megan Klose, Parish Associate  
The Rev. Rusty Lynn, Hon. Ret., Parish Associate  
David Schoonover, Acting Director of Music  
Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

## This Week at FCPC

### September 12–19, 2021

#### Online Worship and Meetings

**Worship Service** – Sunday at 9:30 a.m. [www.fallschurchpresby.org/livestream](http://www.fallschurchpresby.org/livestream), [Sermon.net Media Center](#), [Facebook Live](#), or [YouTube](#). (Subscribe to the FCPC YouTube channel to receive notification when we go live. Learn how [here](#).)

**Fellowship Time** – Immediately following worship. [Zoom Meeting ID: 892 6405 3815](#)

**Tuesday Morning Prayer** – Tuesday at 8:45 a.m. [Zoom Meeting ID: 104 294 101](#)

**Saturday Morning Bible Study & Fellowship Group** – Saturday at 8:00 a.m. Contact [Tom Koger](#) for meeting information.

**Register for in-person worship.** Registration is required for those who would like to worship in person. [Please register here](#). Our live stream continues for those who prefer to worship from home or afar. Currently, attendance is limited to 50. Masks are required and there is no congregational singing. We will be reviewing all of this on a regular basis, so attendance limits and mask and singing requirements will no doubt change in the future.

**Virtual Fellowship Time returns.** Join us on Zoom immediately following worship. [Zoom Meeting ID: 892 6405 3815](#). This week's host is Theresa Brown. Anyone is welcome to host Fellowship Time. Learn more [here](#) and sign up [here](#).

**Blessing of the Backpacks & School Year, Sunday, Sept. 12,** 12:15 p.m. in Frady Park (across N. Fairfax Street from the church). Bring your backpack or work bag for a Blessing of the Backpacks, followed by a special treat from a Kona Ice truck! Open to all children, youth, parents, families, teachers, administrators, support staff—anyone who would like an extra blessing this school year.

**Welcome Table, Sept. 15.** It takes a village to serve 500+ meals to go. Please click [here](#) to see where help is needed. Can't volunteer but would still like to support Welcome Table? You can send a check (made out to FCPC with "Welcome Table" in memo line) or give online [here](#) or via the QR code below.

**Drop & Dash food drive and Pop-Tab collection, Sunday, Sept. 19.** Drop & Dash is moving to Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. so folks can drop items off right after worship. Your donations will help restock the shelves at Knox Presbyterian Food Pantry, managed by [Falls Church Community Service Council](#). The most urgently needed items at Knox can be found [here](#). Please also consider signing up to help receive donations at the Broad Street/front parking lot entrance (two-hour shifts) using this [SignUpGenius link](#). This month, we are also collecting aluminum pop-tabs to benefit [Ronald McDonald House of Northern Virginia](#). Thank you for your continued generosity!

**Called Congregational Meeting, September 26.** The Session has called a congregational meeting following worship on September 26 to elect a Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC). Nominees are Jay Campbell (Chair) and Kirk Salpini representing Session; Susan Beeman from Deacons; and Gary Ewart, Dawn Lenert, and Eric Munson from the congregation at large. Nominations can also be made at the meeting, but please secure permission of anyone you plan to nominate. Zoom link to come.

**Weekday Bible Study: The Letter of Paul to the Romans** begins Monday, Oct. 4 at 2 p.m. (If there is sufficient interest, an evening class will also be held.) The Apostle Paul may have done more to shape Christianity than anyone other than Jesus, and his writings on being saved by grace were central to the Protestant Reformation. His letter to the Roman church is Paul's longest and lays out his understanding of the faith in great detail. Join Pastor Sledge for this 10-week study. Bring your Bible and your curiosity as we explore God's grace and the shape of Christian living. Lessons and Zoom link will be posted soon.

**Gathering Groups return.** Gathering Groups are small groups that explore a particular topic over a period of six weeks. Past participants have shared that they have created deep relationships through these groups. Registration is open now and closes Sept. 22. This round will begin the week of October 4th and run through the week of November 8th. We will explore the theme of being *Called to Connect: How we are all connected through God and to each other; how sometimes we become disconnected from God and others; and how to work on rebuilding broken connections.* There is an option to meet virtually or in person on the registration form. Register [here](#). Questions? Contact [Diane Maloney](#).

**VOICE** has a direct ask for participation on Oct. 3 at 4 p.m. VOICE is hosting gubernatorial candidates Terry McAuliffe and Glenn Youngkin at Dar Alnoor in Manassas. VOICE moderators will press both candidates to make a commitment on VOICE's two current actions, Crisis Receiving Centers ([Info about the Crisis Receiving Center](#)) and Affordable Housing. These are the two actions mentioned in the [Minute for Ministry video](#) I presented last month. To give VOICE more clout with the candidates they need many folks in the audience showing their support. This is an easy commitment to VOICE. Would you be willing to give your time and be in the audience? Please contact me ([Karen Growney](#)) for more information. I will be going, who will stand with me?

**College-age Ministry.** Are you a college student or a young adult away from home? Or the parent of a college student or young adult away from home? Please click [here](#) so the FCPC community can keep in touch. You may also contact [Diane Maloney](#) directly. Most students are vaccinated and back on campus, but many campuses have had cases of COVID, so life is not yet back to status quo. Or maybe it's a new status quo. If you are a member of the congregation who would like to minister to one or more college-age students away from home, please email [Abbie Freeman](#).

**Scan the QR code** at right to connect to the mobile version of FCPC's Online Giving web page.

