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



Jesus Teaching His Disciples,
from a 1684 Arabic manuscript of the Gospels,
The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

These sayings challenge us to examine the quality of our discipleship. Is following Christ at the core of our being, something too precious to be surrendered lightly? Or is our Christianity merely a matter of taste and convenience, something we shelve at the slightest difficulty or inconvenience. Belief that is easily set aside cannot be the faith that Jesus calls for among his disciples.

— PHEME PERKINS, commentary on Mark 9:42-50

We Gather to Praise God

PRELUDE AND RINGING OF THE BELL

Prelude

Alexandre Boely (1785-1858)


WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN 393 (vv. 1 and 3)

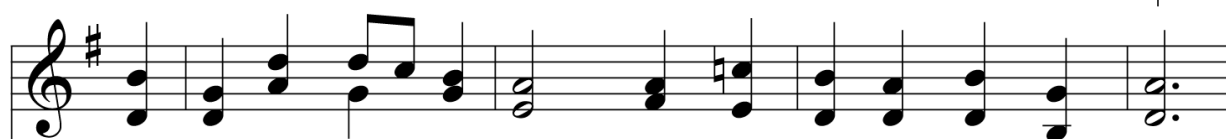
O Day of Rest and Gladness




1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion the light first had its birth;
3 On you, God's peo - ple, meet - ing, the Ho - ly Scrip-ure hear,



O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright;
on you, for our sal - va - tion Christ rose from depths of earth;
Christ's liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, through bread and wine made near.



on you, the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,
on you, our Lord vic - to - rious sent Spir - it forth from heaven.
New grac - es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,



sing "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly" to the great God tri - une.
And thus on you, most glo - rious, a tri - ple light was given.
we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.

DRAW NEAR TO GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE

Almighty and merciful God,

we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against your holy laws.

We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;

and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive those who confess their faults.

Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises

declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And grant, O merciful God, for his sake,

that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name.

from The Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church, USA

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

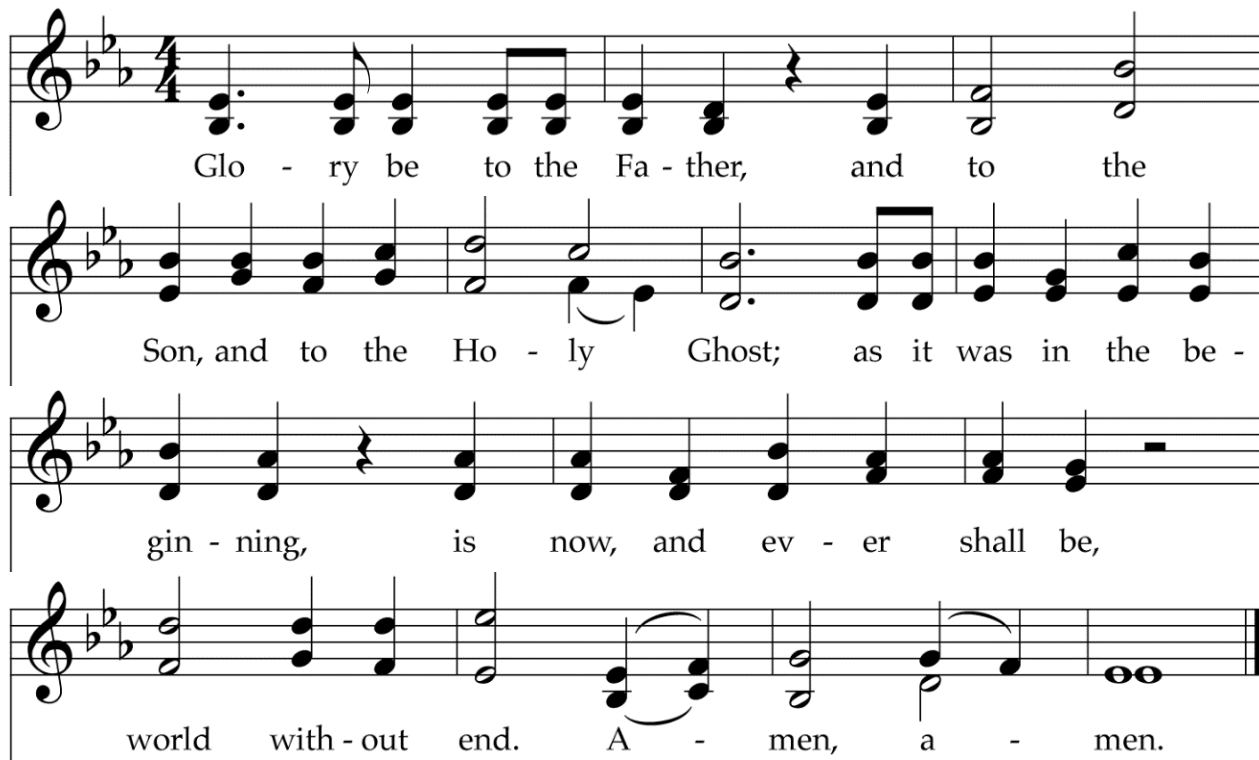
Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

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.

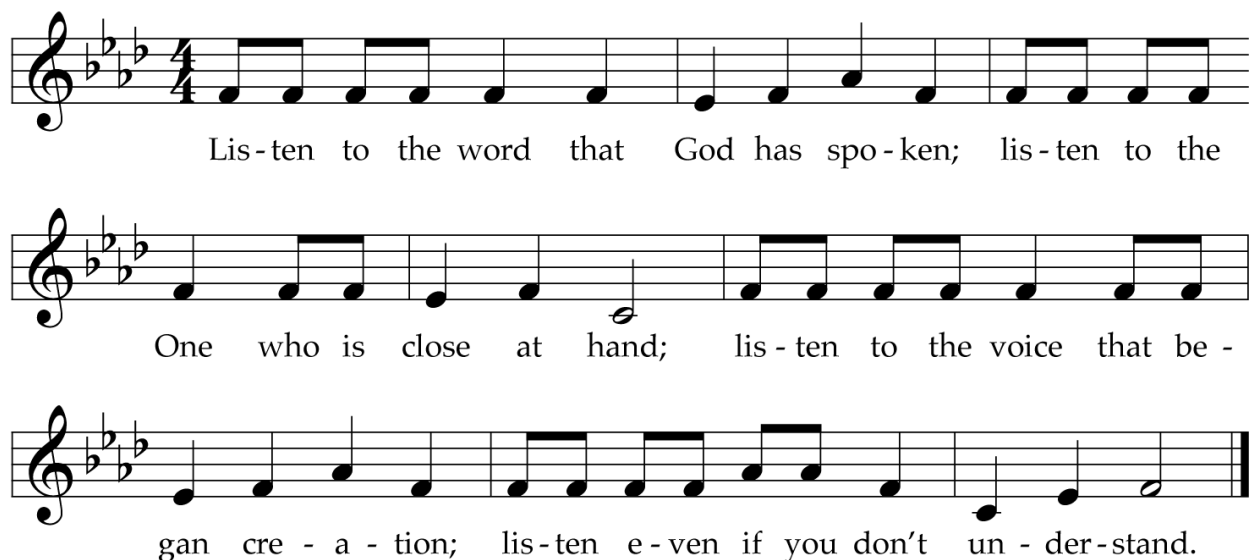
PASSING THE PEACE

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

James 5:13-20

¹³Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC

“Pie Jesu” from *Requiem*

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Vanessa Naghdi, soprano; Brian Moll, piano

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 9:38-50

³⁸John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” ³⁹But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹“For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

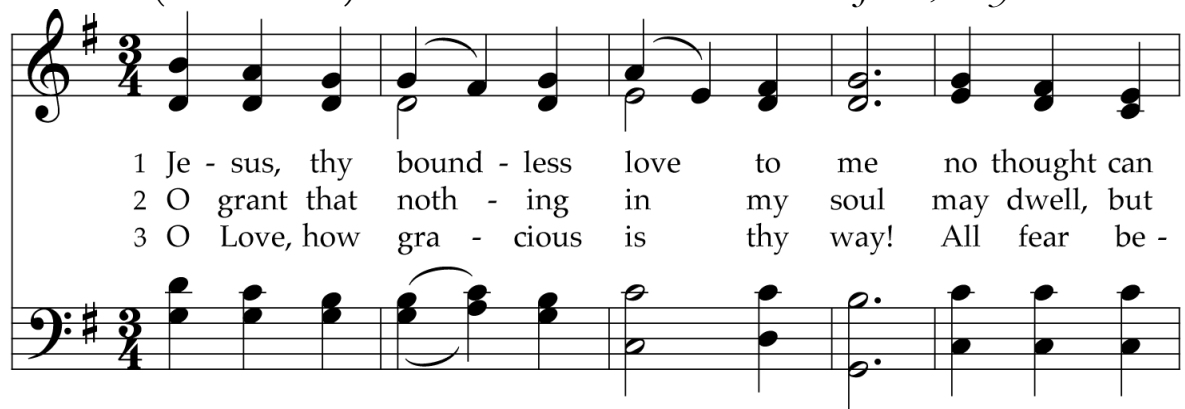
ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

We Respond to God's Word

HYMN 703 (vv. 1 and 3)

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me




1 Je - sus, thy bound - less love to me no thought can
 2 O grant that noth - ing in my soul may dwell, but
 3 O Love, how gra - cious is thy way! All fear be -



reach, no tongue de - clare; O knit my thank - ful heart to
 thy pure love a - lone; O may thy love pos - sess me
 fore thy pres - ence flies; care, an - guish, sor - row melt a -



thee, and reign with - out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly,
 whole, my joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness
 way wher - e'er thy heal - ing beams a - rise. O Je - sus,



thine a - lone, I'd live; my - self to thee en - tire - ly give.
 from my heart re - move; may ev - ery act, word, thought be love.
 noth - ing may I see, noth - ing de - sire, or seek, but thee.

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

Session

Bill Kusterbeck

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Julie Kasten

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

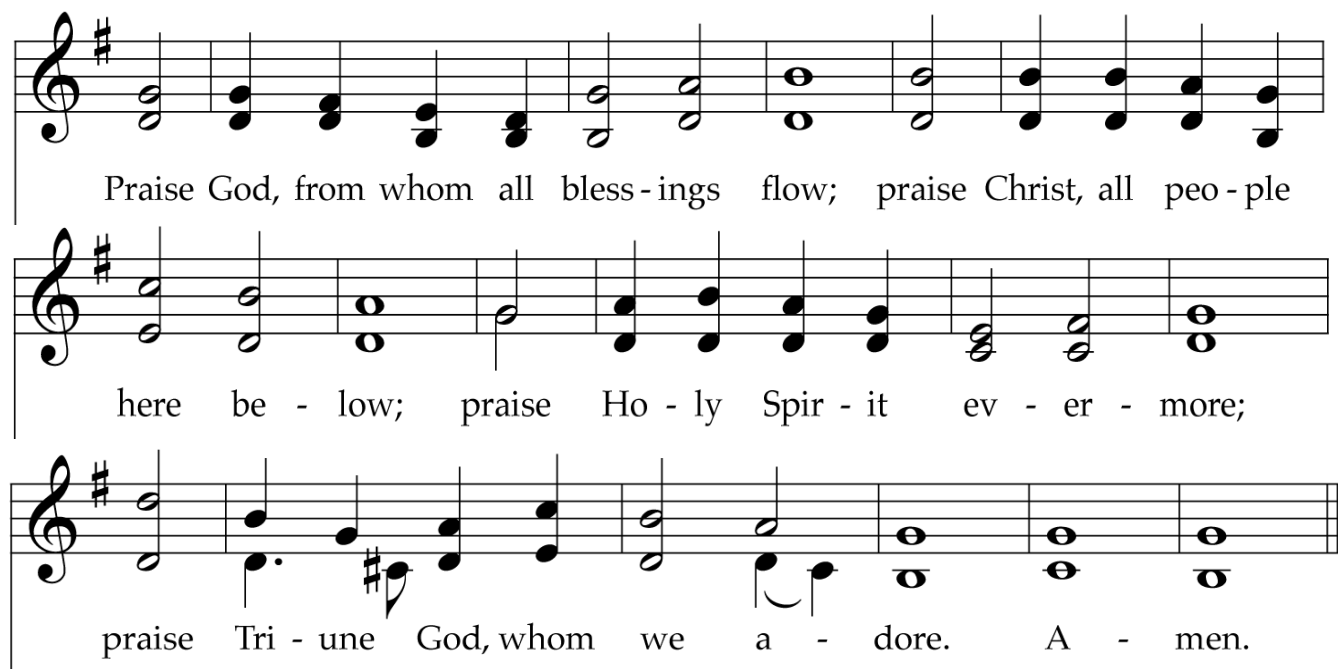
Continued prayers

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@fallschurchurchpresby.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

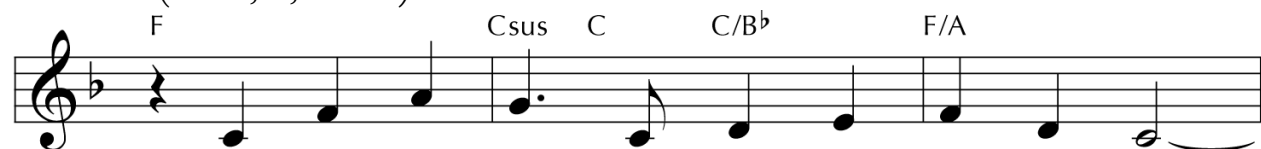
OLD HUNDREDTH
LM

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

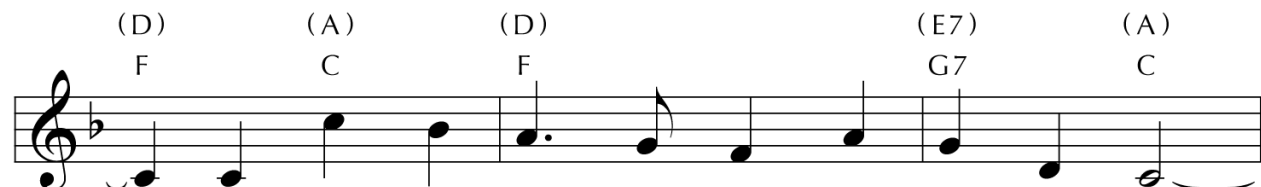
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power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

HYMN 485 (vv. 1, 2, and 4)

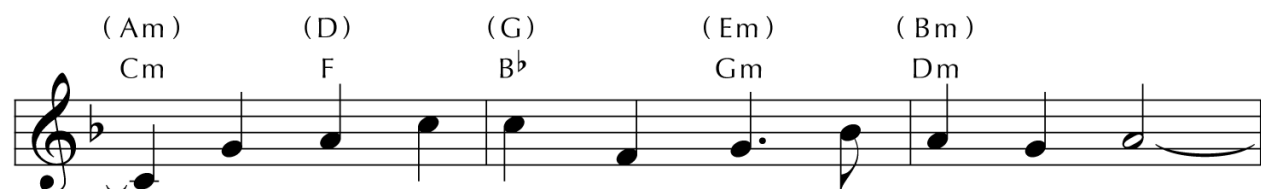
We Know That Christ Is Raised



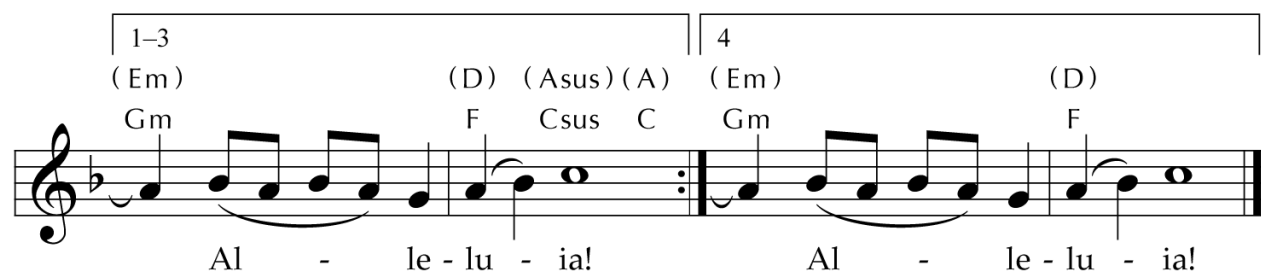
1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life
The Spir - it's pow - er shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.
Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse, re - stored and whole, will sing:



TEXT: John Brownlow Geyer, 1967, alt.
MUSIC: Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904
Text © 1972 John Brownlow Geyer

ENGELBERG
10.10.10.4
(this tune in a higher key, 641)

OUR LIFE TOGETHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

arr. Don Wyrzten (contemporary)

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Supporting us in Worship

Worship Leader	Julie Kasten
Audio/Video	Andrew Jonas, Diane Maloney
Music	David Schoonover
Ushers	Myra Bridgforth, Jay Campbell
Sanctuary Flowers	The flowers today are given to the Glory of God by the Martin family in memory of Suzanne's father, Robert DeMass, on his September 24 birthday. Flowers are also given by the Layson family in loving memory of Bill Layson.

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 26–October 3, 2021

Online Worship and Meetings

Worship Service – Sunday at 9:30 a.m. www.fallschurchpresby.org/livestream, [Sermon.net Media Center](#), [Facebook Live](#), or [YouTube](#).

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

Virtual Fellowship Time – Following the Congregational Meeting. [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.

Called Congregational Meeting, Sept. 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, Eric Munson, and Bonnie Seklecki from the congregation at large. Nominations can also be made at the meeting, but please secure permission of anyone you plan to nominate. [Zoom Meeting ID: 892 6405 3815](#)

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. Join us on Zoom immediately following the Congregational Meeting. [Zoom Meeting ID: 892 6405 3815](#). This week's host is Kathy Nelson. Anyone is welcome to host Fellowship Time. Learn more [here](#) and sign up [here](#).

Lemonade on the Lawn. For those worshipping in person, please join us following the Congregational Meeting for lemonade and distanced fellowship on the front lawn. Hosted by Susan Beeman.

Church library open following Sunday worship. Feel free to visit the library and check out a book after worship. Masks are required and no more than three people inside at a time.

Church Picnic, Saturday, Oct. 2, 5:00 p.m. Let's gather safely on the front lawn for a picnic! Bring your own picnic dinner and a blanket or chair. Questions? Contact [Susan Beeman](#).

Peace & Global Witness Offering will be received now through Oct. 3. A gift to this Special Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. [Learn more and give here](#), or mail your donation to the church office. For those worshipping in person, special envelopes and more information are available at the entrances to the sanctuary.

VOICE event, Oct. 3, 4 p.m. VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) 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](#) and Affordable Housing. These are the two actions mentioned in the [Minute for Ministry video](#) Karen Growney 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; would you be willing to bring a friend and give of your time to be in the audience? As new members of VOICE, our team, which is part of the Justice Ministry, would like to show support from FCPC with a sizable group. Please contact [Karen Growney](#) for more [information](#) or to indicate that you can come stand with us.

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. The lessons are available for download [here](#). [Zoom Meeting ID: 81356493860](#)

Welcome Table, Oct. 6. Click [here](#) to sign up for your favorite volunteer spot. If you cannot be there in person, your financial support would also be most welcome. Send a check (made out to FCPC with "Welcome Table" noted) to the church office or give online [here](#) or via the QR code below. Thank you for your continued support!

Drop & Dash update. Last Sunday—the first of our new, one-day Drop & Dashes—you donated a total of 43 boxes and bags of essential items, which were then delivered to Knox Presbyterian Food Pantry by Marsha Schuyler and Tom Koger. Thanks to the volunteers who staffed the event: Scott and Sue Armstrong, Linda Garvelink, and Shelly Skomra. And thanks to Jenny Growney for being our SignUpGenius genius!

Shout Out for Justice! (formerly Silent Witness), Oct. 9, Noon-1 p.m. along Broad Street. Now that students are back in classrooms, remember that even small instances of racism at school impact students of color in a big way. What does it look like? It's teachers and students who mispronounce the names of students of color saying they can't pronounce them; asking a student of color to select a new name that is easier to pronounce or remember; calling one student of color by another student's name as if they were indistinguishable; casual use of the n-word as a misguided expression of coolness; and teachers and administrators who do not call students out for this behavior. This cultivated environment harms students of color in the very buildings where they work so hard. Taken individually, these examples may seem insignificant but the toll over time is real. Microaggressions make students of color feel that they are not valued as much as white students, and ultimately, that the lives of students of color do not matter. Join us Oct. 9 to stand with students and families of color. Learn more about spotting **racial microaggressions** [here](#). Bring a sign and wear a mask.

Introducing the Free Little Pantry. FCPC is now home to a free little pantry. Similar to free little libraries, the little pantry is a grassroots crowdsourced solution to immediate and local need. Whether people have a need for food or a need to give, mini pantries help neighbors feed neighbors. You and your family can now adopt the new FCPC Little Pantry for one week (or more!). Stop by the pantry a few times during the week to make sure it is stocked and tidy. If inventory looks low, please purchase ready-to-eat items, toiletries, and disinfecting supplies to replenish it. All items must be shelf-stable, sealed, and able to withstand high temperatures. Sign up to sponsor the Little Pantry [here](#).

Music Director search update. As some of you may know, FCPC had planned to have a permanent music director in place for fall of 2021, but the continuing pandemic and the Delta variant have made rehearsals problematic and auditions impossible. As a result, David Schoonover will continue in his acting director role through this program year. Covid willing, we will begin the search for a permanent director next spring for a hire in summer of 2022.

Lost and found: A silver and amethyst ring in the garden bed in front of Fellowship Hall. Please contact the [church office](#) if this ring belongs to you.

Funeral reception help. As FCPC slowly begins to open up following the covid shutdown, in-person funeral services and receptions are once again taking place, though on a limited scale. If you are one of the many people who honed their baking skills during the pandemic, why not put these new talents to good work and volunteer to provide baked goods for funeral receptions. Patsy Acheson would be happy to add you to her list of volunteers to contact when a reception takes place. Home baked goods are so appreciated by families at funeral receptions. If you would like to be added to the on-call baker list, [contact Patsy Acheson](#).

College-age Ministry. Are you a college student or a young adult away from home or one of their parents? 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.

