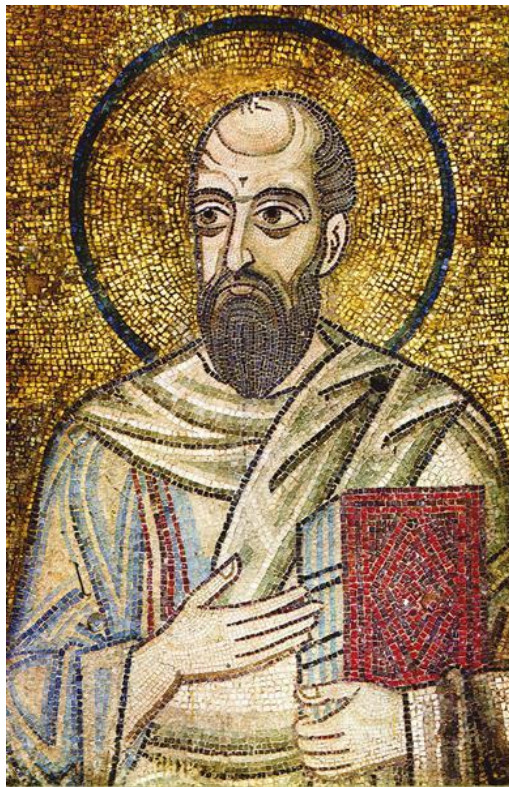

Gathering those who fear they are not enough,
so we may experience grace, wholeness, and renewal as God's beloved.



Apostle Paul, Byzantine mosaic, ca. 1030
Saint Sophia Cathedral, Kyiv, Ukraine

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

The Cross is the eternal expression of the length to which God will go to in order to restore broken community.

– Martin Luther King Jr.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

– The Apostle Paul

We Gather to Praise God

PRELUDE

Suite for Musical Clock

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

RINGING OF THE BELL AND INTROIT

WELCOME

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalm 27

ONE: The LORD is my light and my salvation;

ALL: Whom shall I fear?

ONE: The LORD is the stronghold of my life;

ALL: Of whom shall I be afraid? Come, let us sing
and make melody to the LORD.

*** HYMN 630**

Fairest Lord Jesus

DRAW NEAR TO GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE

O risen Christ, you have called us to live our lives by the pattern of yours.

You call us to lives that are centered on you, but we have other ideas.

Our lives are centered on our work, on our family, on our politics,
on all manner of things other than you.

Very often our Christian faith is a thin veneer than we put on,
and so we do not love God with heart, soul, and mind,
nor do we love our neighbors as ourselves.

In your great love, forgive us. Call to us once more,
and turn our hearts toward you. Come into our hearts,
and direct our lives, that we might show you to the world.

Silence for personal reflection

SUNG RESPONSE



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

** Please stand in body or spirit*

RECEIVE GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE, AND PEACE

* SING GLORY TO GOD

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1979

GLORIA (Taizé)

Music © 1979, 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

* PASSING THE PEACE

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

ALL: And also with you.

Children ages 4 and up are invited to continue their worship at Godly Play in room 59.

We Listen for God's Word

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (sung twice)

Leader All

Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

TEXT: Kenyan; trans. Howard S. Olson, 1987

MUSIC: Kenyan; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1987

English Trans. © 1987 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

Music Arr. © 1987 Austin C. Lovelace (admin. Augsburg Fortress)

NENO LAKE MUNGU

6.4.6.4 with refrain

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 9:1-4

OT, page 638

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

WORD IN MUSIC

The Heavens Sing Praises to God

L. van Beethoven (1770-1827)

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

NT, page 166

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

WHAT MAKES A CHURCH A CHURCH?

James Sledge

We Respond to God's Word

* HYMN 316

Where Charity and Love Prevail

* 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.

CLOUD OF WITNESSES STORY

Anne Kusterbeck

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sue Armstrong

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.

Prayer Concerns

Rusty Lynn, following outpatient surgery on Jan. 20

Anne Peret on the death of her brother, Cort Peret, on Jan. 7

Cathy Johnson on the death of her mother, Mary Lou Johnson, on Jan. 5

Continued Prayers

Kris Barth, Sarah Barth, Allan Capon, Neill Ferill, Mike Hugo, Miss Latifa,

Rusty Lynn, Ruth Mileham, Bob Moore, Sharane Patek, Dick Rowberg,

Michael Volpe, Ken Waugh, Christa Young

Prayer requests can be sent to Pastors James and Megan at 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 372

O for a World

* OUR LIFE TOGETHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

* CHARGE AND BLESSING

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

arr. Don Wyrzten (b. 1942)

Songs reprinted with permission under One License #A-721003. All rights reserved.

Supporting us in Worship

Worship Leader	Sue Armstrong
Ushers	Marsha Schuyler
Audio/Video	Alex Hess
Sanctuary Flowers	The flowers today are given by the Martin family to the glory of God and in memory of Suzanne DeMass Martin's mother, Phyllis DeMass, on her January 20th birthday.

A Warm Welcome

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning. Please sign the red welcome pad which can be found at the end of the pew, then pass the pad along to your neighbor. If you would like to learn more about our family of faith, please visit www.fallschurchpresby.org.

Masks in Worship

Masks are strongly recommended but no longer required in worship. Please consider those who are immune compromised or unable to be vaccinated and continue to mask up.

Children in Worship

Children are always welcome in our services. Child care is available for **children up to age 4** in Room 201. Parents may drop off and pick up children throughout this time. For children **4 years of age and older**, Godly Play is offered in Room 59 following the Passing of the Peace.

Congregational Meeting Today

Session has called a congregational meeting for this morning, immediately following this worship service, to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the church and James Sledge. James' last Sunday at FCPC will be February 5.

Farewell Reception for James Sledge, February 5

Please join us in Fellowship Hall following the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Feb. 5 as we bid farewell to Pastor James Sledge. For those attending 8:30 worship, there will also be refreshments and a time to say goodbye after that service.

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. Megan Klose, Associate Pastor

Diane Maloney, Director of Spiritual Growth and Community Engagement

Dr. Don Armstrong, Director of Music

Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

Falls Church Presbyterian Church

225 East Broad Street, Falls Church, VA 22046

703-532-6518 | www.fallschurchpresby.org

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



First Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 9:1-4

¹But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Second Scripture Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Fairest Lord Jesus

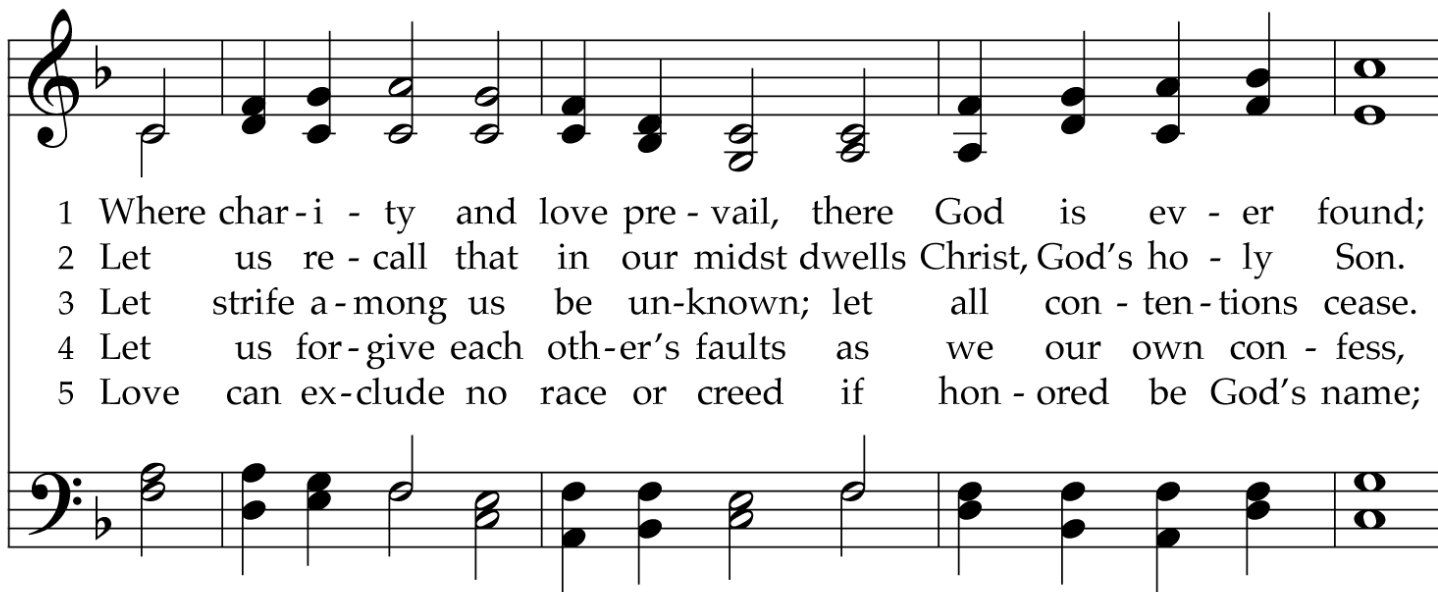
1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Rul - er of the

na - ture, O thou of God to earth come
 wood - lands, robed in the bloom - ing garb of
 moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry
 na - tions, Son of God and Son of


down, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I
 spring. Je - sus is fair - er; Je - sus is
 host. Je - sus shines bright - er; Je - sus shines
 Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
 ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Where Charity and Love Prevail 316



1 Where char-i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son.
3 Let strife a - mong us be un-known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
4 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,
5 Love can ex - clude no race or creed if hon - ored be God's name;



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
As mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.
our com - mon life em - brac - es all whose Mak - er is the same.

This English paraphrase is based on a longer Latin hymn traditionally associated with the footwashing ritual on Maundy Thursday, an enactment of Christ's "new commandment" that we should love one another (John 13:34). For a chant setting of the first line of the hymn see no. 205.

O for a World

372

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re-spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re-lieved,
3 We wel-come one world fam - i - ly and strug-gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo-rious reign of peace,

where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
where truth is spo - ken, chil-dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out-casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Everything longed for in this text is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical *shalom*.

TEXT: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

Text © 1990 Medical Mission Sisters

AZMON

CM