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



Laura James, Sermon on the Mount, 2010
from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

The kingdom, Jesus taught, is right here--present yet hidden, immanent yet transcendent. It is at hand--among us and beyond us, now and not-yet. The kingdom of heaven, he said, belongs to the poor, the meek, the peacemakers, the merciful, and those who hunger and thirst for God. It advances not through power and might, but through missions of mercy, kindness, and humility. In this kingdom, many who are last will be first and many who are first will be last. The rich don't usually get it, Jesus said, but children always do. This is a kingdom whose savior arrives not on a warhorse, but a donkey, not through triumph and conquest, but through death and resurrection. This kingdom is the only kingdom that will last.

– Rachel Held Evans

We Gather to Praise God

PRELUDE

Spirit of God

arr. Joe Utterback (b. 1944)

RINGING OF THE BELL AND INTROIT

WELCOME

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Show us your ways, O Lord! Lead us in your truth, and teach us.

ALL: **Open our eyes, minds, and hearts to know your will and to follow it.**

ONE: Reveal your vision for us, and keep us focused and faithful.

ALL: **Bring us together to worship and work for your purpose,
and move us forward into your future.**

Adapted from the Rev. Teri Peterson

*** HYMN 625**

How Great Thou Art

DRAW NEAR TO GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE

God beyond all knowing, we are frightened by the state of the world.

Gun violence is routine, the flames of hatred grow more intense,
and war rages, killing scores of innocents.

In the midst of it all, we struggle to sense your presence,
we cannot see you at work in the world, and our doubts surge.

O God, calm our fears and sooth our doubts. Let us feel your love.

Pour out your Spirit on us, that we may live in ways that bring hope.

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

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

Micah 6:1-8

OT, page 866

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

THE PROMISE OF THE BEATITUDES

James Sledge

We Respond to God's Word

*** HYMN 731**

Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith is Firm

*** 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

Darryle Brown

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

Lowell Schuyler, following knee replacement surgery on Jan. 23

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

Cathy Johnson and family on the death of 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

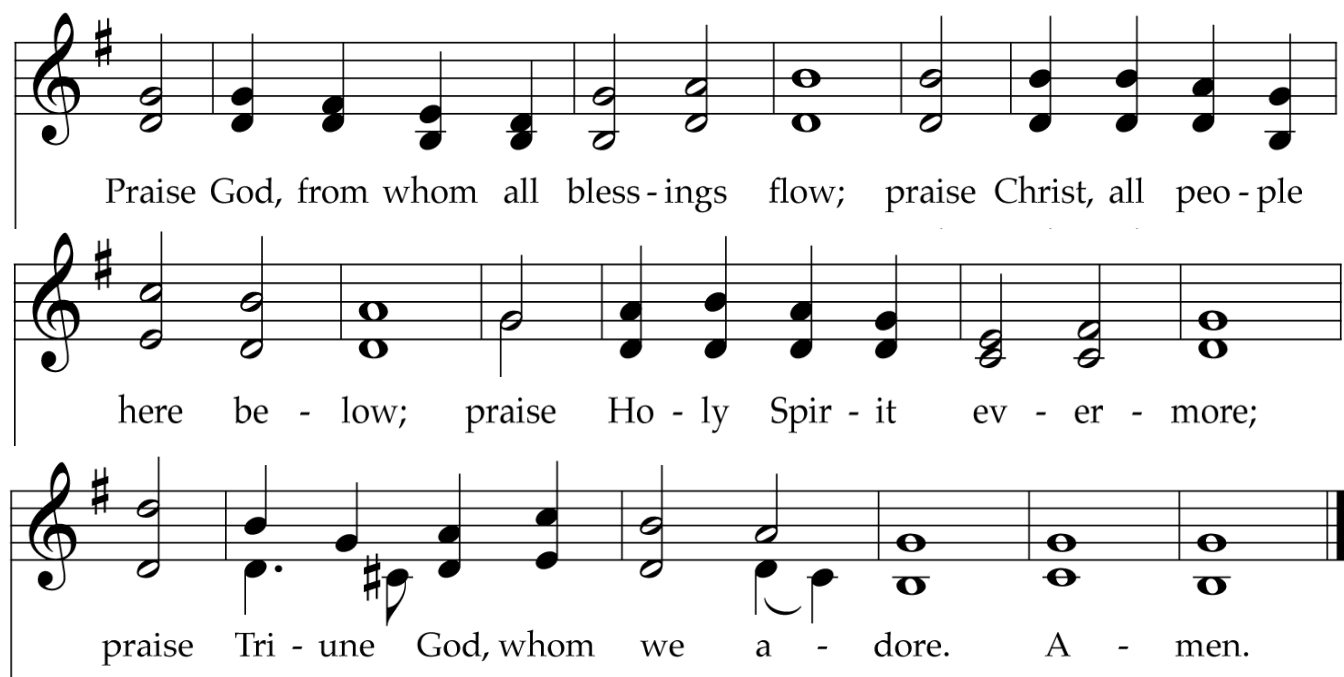
Prayer requests can be sent to Pastors James and Megan at prayers@fallschurchpresby.org.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Look at the World

John Rutter

* 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 321

The Church's One Foundation

* OUR LIFE TOGETHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

* CHARGE AND BLESSING

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

arr. Don Wyrzten (b. 1942)

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Supporting us in Worship

Worship Leader	Darryle Brown
Ushers	Jay Campbell
Audio/Video	Alex Hess
Sanctuary Flowers	The flowers today are given by the Bruce family to the glory of God and in memory of Carolyn's father, Bob Appleby, and his love of the Philadelphia Eagles. #It'sAPhillyThing

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.

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.

Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast, February 12

Join us for the annual Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast on Feb. 12 following the 10:45 worship service. Troop 895 Scouts will prepare and serve the FCPC congregation in thanks for our partnership throughout the year. Troop 895 was chartered by Falls Church Presbyterian in 1957.

Pastor Transition Notes

“Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for ... your future ...” – Jeremiah 29:11

The work of transitioning to a new pastor for FCPC continues unabated. Efforts have progressed on multiple fronts, including actions by the membership of FCPC, by the Personnel Team, and by the Congregational Nominating Committee to advance our Pastor Transition process. Specific information regarding each of these can be found below. We welcome all input and ask for your prayers and support as together we identify the path forward, knowing that we have been blessed with Grace Upon Grace by a loving God who has a plan for our future.

- At its Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2023, FCPC voted to dissolve the pastoral relationship with our Senior Pastor and Head of Staff James Sledge, effective Sunday, February 5, 2023. Longtime FCPC member and elder Michael Volpe spoke to us in his capacity as co-chair of the Congregational Transitions Commission of National Capital Presbytery about the process of finding a new Senior Pastor, using the streamlined ‘Jump Start’ approach to shorten the time it takes to complete the process. Presbytery will assist FCPC in finding a Transitional Pastor and will help with planning an all-church in-house retreat to lay the foundation for the Ministry Information Form (MIF), which describes who we are and what we seek in a new Senior Pastor/Head of Staff. Mike reiterated that after February 5, James will be barred from serving FCPC in any pastoral or administrative capacity whatever, those duties and responsibilities passing in all respects initially to Megan Klose, subsequently to a Transitional Pastor and ultimately to a new called pastor.
- This week the Personnel Team met to discuss the process of identifying a Transitional Pastor. It is currently preparing the position description for the Transitional Pastor and, with assistance from Presbytery and Session, will as expeditiously as possible, identify candidates, interview and vet those candidates, and identify a nominee for approval of Session. Pursuant to the Book of Order and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Session has ultimate authority to hire the transitional pastor.
- Personnel also will promptly revise the position description and employment contract for Rev. Megan Klose so that she may serve as the FCPC Senior Pastor and Head of Staff, effective February 6, 2023, until a Transitional Pastor is hired.

Forming a Pastor Nominating Committee

The Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) has begun the process of identifying persons to serve on a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to attract, discern, and identify the next pastor of our church. Given the importance of the PNC's role, we anticipate that there will be considerable interest in serving on the committee. To help us identify and nominate a qualified slate of candidates reflecting the vibrancy and diversity of FCPC's membership as a whole, we invite applicants for the PNC to answer three questions:

1. How many years have you been a member of FCPC?
2. What are your current and past activities at FCPC (e.g., choir, Welcome Table, Sunday school teacher, committee/team member)?
3. Why do you want to serve on the PNC?

Alternatively, if you would like to nominate someone to serve on the PNC (with their consent, of course!), please answer the questions above with respect to your nominee. Email your answers to CNC@fallschurchpresby.org by the end of February. The CNC wholeheartedly welcomes all applications and nominations. After we have prayerfully decided on a list of nominees from the pool of candidates, a congregational meeting will be held to vote on approving the proposed PNC members.

The CNC members are Jay Campbell (chair), Susan Beeman, Molly Good, Dawn Lenert, Kirk Salpini, Bonnie Seklecki, and Clay Warner.

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

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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

Micah 6:1-8

- ¹ Hear what the LORD says:
Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.
- ² Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.
- ³ “O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
- ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.
- ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”
- ⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
- ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
- ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 5:1-12

- ¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
- ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
- ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

O Lord My God

How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
 2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der and hear the
 3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion and take me



all the *worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, when I look down from
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then *I shall bow in



hear the *roll-ing thun-der, thy power through-out the
 loft-y moun-tain gran-deur and hear the brook and
 bur-den glad-ly bear-ing, he bled and died to
 hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion, and there pro-claim, "My

Refrain

u-ni-verse dis-played:
 feel the gen-tle breeze: Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to
 take a-way my sin:
 God, how great thou art!"



thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my



Sav-ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm

Capo 1: (D) E^b (A) B^b (Bm) Cm (G) A^b

1 Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all a -
 2 Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, be - yond mere
 3 Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a spar - kling
 4 Give thanks for saints of a - ges past and saints a -

(D) E^b (A) B^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (Em) Fm (A) B^b (F#m) Gm

round seems bleak: on God's good prom - ise they re - ly, so
 mor - tal sight: who seek the cit - y God has planned, the
 pre - cious stone: they show by what they say and do an
 live to - day: though of - ten by this world de - spised, their

(Bm) Cm (G) A^b (Em) Fm (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b

while they live and when they die how force - ful -
 true, e - ter - nal prom - ised land, and steer on
 in - ward beau - ty, warm and true, for God's con -
 hearts by God are rich - ly prized. Give thanks that

(A7) B^b7 (B) C (Em) Fm (G) A^b (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b

ly they speak: the strong, who once were weak!
 toward that light, a bea - con ev - er bright.
 cerns they own: God's love through them is known.
 we may say we share their pil - grim way.

The Church's One Foundation 321

1 The chur-ch's one foun-da-tion is Je-sus Christ her Lord.
 2 E-lect from ev-ery na-tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn-ful won-der this world sees her op-pressed,
 4 Mid toil and trib-u-la-tion, and tu-mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has un-ion with God, the Three in One,

She is his new cre-a-tion by wa-ter and the word.
 her char-ter of sal-va-tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 by schis-ms rent a-sun-der, by her-e-sies dis-tressed,
 she waits the con-sum-ma-tion of peace for-ev-er-more:
 and mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho-ly bride.
 One ho-ly name she bless-es, par-takes one ho-ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep-ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi-sion glo-rious her long-ing eyes are blest,
 O hap-py ones and ho-ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press-es, with ev-ery grace en-dued.
 And soon the night of weep-ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic-to-rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low-ly, may live e-ter-nal-ly.