

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Presbyterian Church
of Howard County

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 31, 2025

8:30 a.m. In-person

10:00 a.m. In-person & Livestream Service



GATHER

Let all enter Branch Hall in a spirit of prayer.
Words in **bold** are read by the congregation.

**Those who are able may stand*

Please remember to turn your cell phones to silent.

*This worship service is being livestreamed to the internet,
and you may appear on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.*

*For our online congregation - Let us know you are here! Post a greeting!
And remember that you can place a request in the Prayer Journal
in the comments on both You Tube and Facebook Live.*

Prelude

Resignation

arr. Mark Hayes

Lighting the Christ Candle

Whenever we light this candle, we proclaim:

Christ is the light of the world and the center of our lives.

Call to Worship

Lord, we are here to learn.

Teach us to love, teach us to serve.

Teach us gentle strength and warm authority.

Teach us how to bind up the brokenness.

Teach us to be stewards of our powers, custodians of our communities.

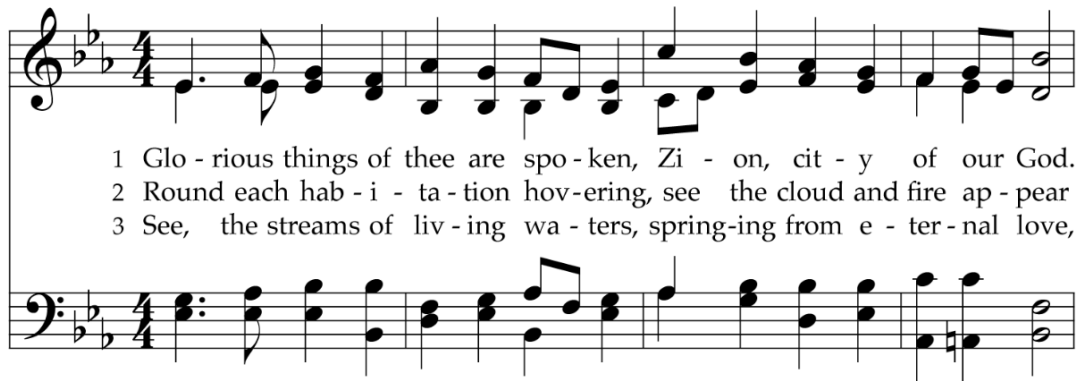
All: Teach us the sheer exploding joy of service.

* **Hymn 81**

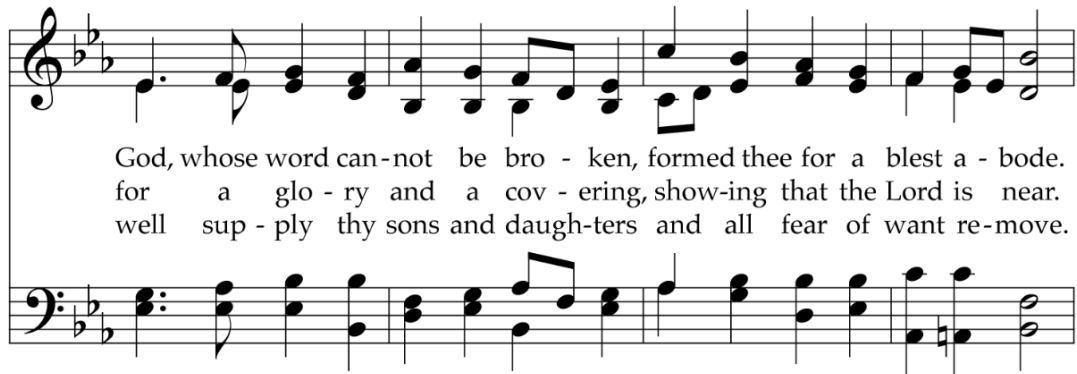
Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken
(see next page for hymn)

Austrian Hymn

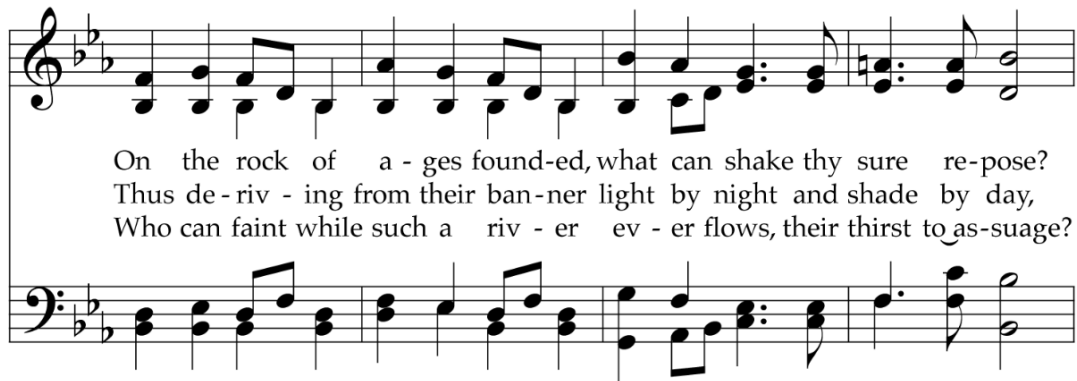
81 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken



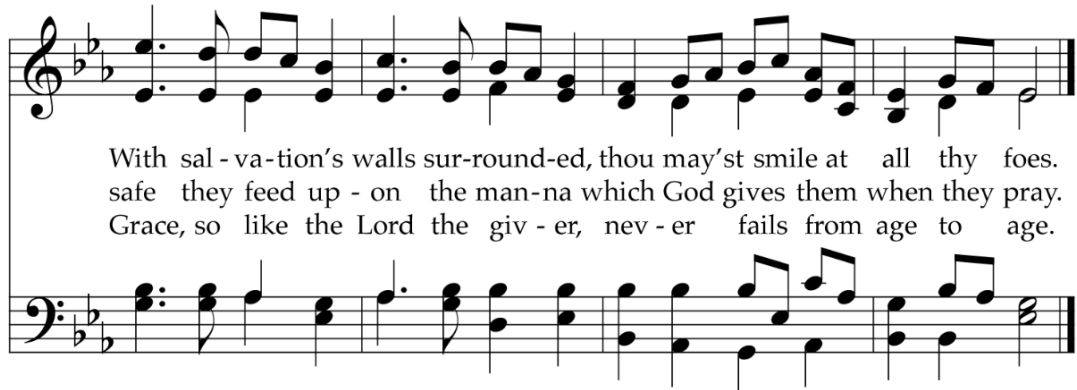
1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God.
 2 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear
 3 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,



God, whose word can - not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode.
 for a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
 well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.



On the rock of a - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,
 Who can faint while such a riv - er ev - er flows, their thirst to as - suage?



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them when they pray.
 Grace, so like the Lord the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.

The Nazi appropriation of this tune for propaganda purposes has clouded a noble piece of music first associated with this text in 1889. In a 1779 collection, the author indicated that this hymn is primarily based on Isaiah 33:20-21 with allusions to several other passages.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

We are always uncomfortable, Watching God,
when you notice how we want to sit in the seats of honor.
We can be so proper, so good, so well-off,
that it is easy to imagine we are superior to the poor.
We are so busy completing our 'To Do' list each day,
that we forget to do good when we have the chance.

Forgive us, Welcoming God.
Fill our emptiness with your grace and humility
that we would spend our lives alongside Jesus,
our Lord and Savior,
throwing a party for the poor, the damaged,
the prisoner, the lost, the oppressed.

Assurance of Grace

* Response of Praise 605

Praise to God the Father

Da N'ase



Praise to God the Fa - ther; praise to God the Son;
Da n'a - se! Da n'a - se! Da On - ya - me a - se!



praise to God the Spir - it: praise to the Three - in - One.
Da n'a - se! Da n'a - se! Da On - ya - me a - se!



Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on high.
Ef - ia - se o - ye n'a n'a - do - e do - e so.



Praise to God Al - might - y; praise to the Ho - ly One.
Da n'a - se! Da n'a - se! Da On - ya - me a - se!

*** Sharing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(We share peace with a nod or a bow, perhaps with hand on heart or folded hands, or with the ASL sign for peace. If worshipping from home, greet each other by sending a text, a wave or comment on Facebook or YouTube.)

*** Response of Peace**

The Peace of the Earth

John Bell

The peace of the earth be with you, the
 peace of the heav - ens, too. The peace of the riv - ers
 be with you, the peace of the o - ceans, too:
 deep peace fall - ing o - ver you,
 God's peace grow - ing in you.

Words of Welcome

*Newcomers please leave us your address and contact information on the Visitor Card. These are available on a table at the entrance
 Place the Visitor Card in the offering plate.*

ENCOUNTER

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Hebrews 13:1-8; 15-16

¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Afterwards, children ages 4-7 may go with Ms. Kathy Moore to Godly Play.

Parents can pick up their children following worship.

(It is the church's policy to not put images of children on the livestream.)

**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.**

Second Lesson: Luke 14:1; 7-14

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place', and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Soul Dysmorphic Syndrome

Kenneth Page

(after the sermon, we observe a time of silence and prayer)

RESPOND AND SERVE

* **Affirmation of Faith** *(together)*

I believe I need a shepherd.

**Because I am sometimes timid and other times overconfident,
because I often don't know the best path yet pretend I do,
because I rush into dead ends or lead others into hazardous places,
because my brightest ideas are seamed with darkness,
because the things I crave may not be what is good for me,
I need a shepherd.**

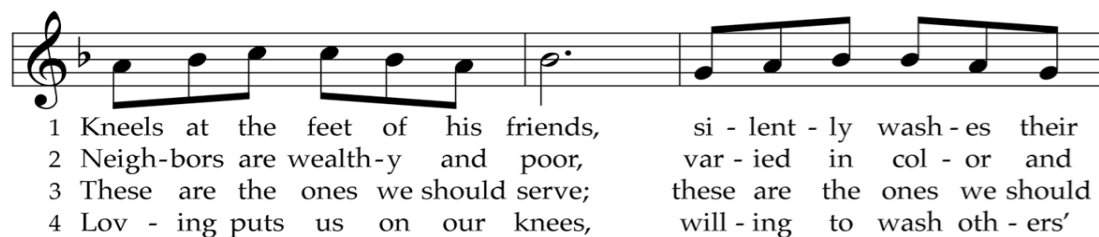
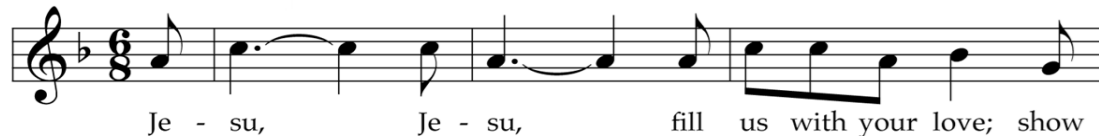
**I believe in Jesus, the best possible shepherd;
his wisdom leads me to the best opportunities,
his word comforts me when I'm anxious or afraid,
his arm steadies me when I feel weary and heavy-laden,
his wounded body displays the cost of my rescue.**

**I believe in Jesus, the best possible shepherd.
I believe that I do not find him but he finds me,
that I under his care by virtue of sheer grace,
the love he gives me is to be shared with others,
that he treasures my name and prepares a place for me,
that his fold transfixes earth and heaven.**

I trust Jesus, the good shepherd. Amen.

JESUS CHRIST: PASSION AND DEATH

203 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Refrain

Considering that this text comes from a part of the world where Christianity is not the primary religion gives these simple but powerful words even more depth and meaning. The tune name recalls the district in the Northern Region of Ghana where this tune was collected.

TEXT: Tom Colvin, 1969, rev. 1997, alt.

MUSIC: Ghanaian folk melody; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1963; arr. Jane Marshall, 1982

Text and Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company

Music Arr. © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

CHEREPONI

7.7.9 with refrain

Concerns and Remembrances

Prayers of Gratitude and Concern

Concluding Prayer *(together)*

**There is none like you God in your love, your generosity,
 your gifting and your hospitality.**

**And we thank you that you are in our lives,
 working in us and through us
 to let people know your kingdom is open to all.**

**In the name of your Son, who opened the doors for all
 and broke down barriers that kept people from you, Amen.**

The Offering

Offertory Anthem

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Traditional

John, *tenor*

* Doxology 710

We Lift Our Voices

We Lift Our Voices

The musical score is written for a single voice part in 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music. The lyrics are: "We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering." The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, as well as triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes) and rests.

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our
lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our
voic - es; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our
lives; they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we
give to you, we give to you. We lift our
voic - es; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing; we are an of-fer-ing.

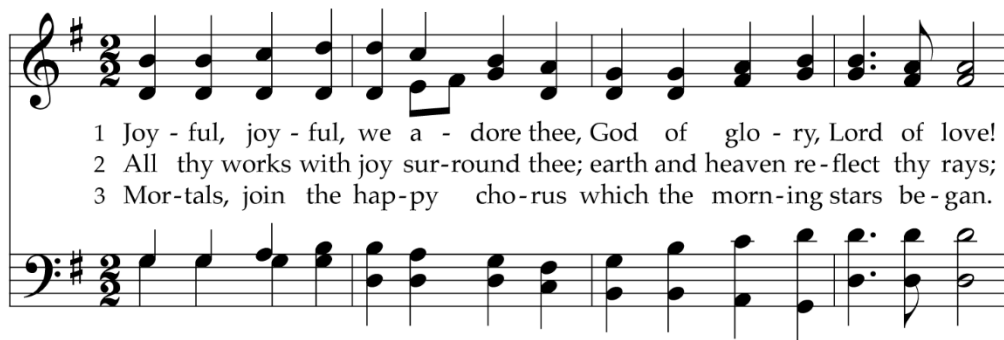
* Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

SEND AND BLESS

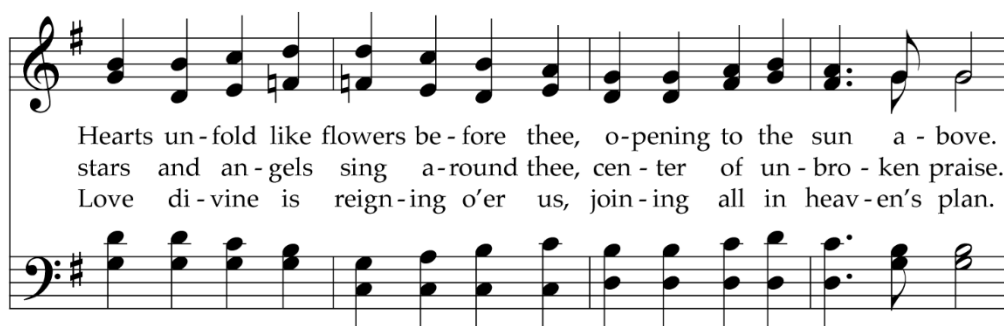
This Week at First Presbyterian Church

ADORATION

611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



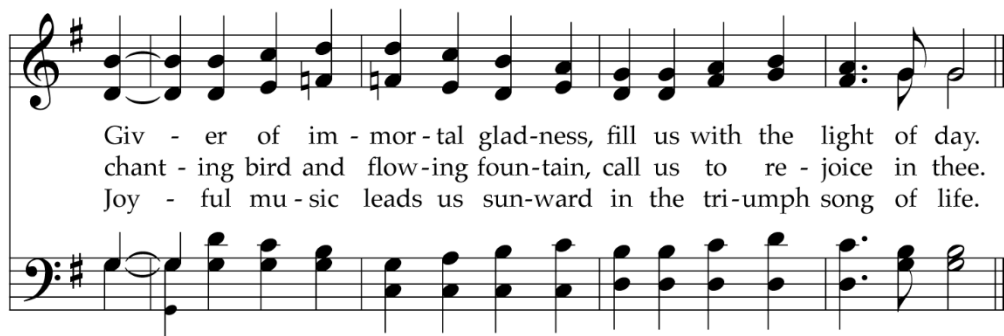
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-flect thy rays;
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.



Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pening to the sun a-bove.
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
 Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a-way.
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Ev-er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife.



Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.
 Joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J. C. F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

* **Benediction**

* **Response #568**

Amen

Amen (Haugen)

568

Amen

Capo 3: (Em) (D) (G) (Am) (Em) (B) (C) (D) (A)
 Gm F B^b Cm Gm D E^b F C

A - men, a - men, a - men!

(Em) (D) (G) (Am) (Em) (B) (C) (Bm7) (E)
 Gm F B^b Cm Gm D E^b Dm7 G

A - men, a - men, a - men!

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
 MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1984
 Music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.

AMEN (Haugen)

Postlude

Holy Manna

arr. Mark Hayes



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, education, mission and common life of First Church.

During Today's Worship

If your infant or child needs care during the worship service, you may leave the Sanctuary and return as you wish. Child care for infants and children under four years old is available all morning. We have a texting system to alert you if you are needed while in the worship service. The ushers will be glad to help you.

Flash photography during worship is not permitted. Please, no food or drink in the Sanctuary.

If you are new to First Presbyterian Church

Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month.

Disabled persons entrance is through the Main Entrance in the rear of the building.

We invite you to become a member of First Presbyterian Church. Please speak with Pastor Ken or call the church office to set a time to meet.

Visitors: You may be wondering why we are worshipping cramped into a small hall. We had a fire in July of 2025 and the Sanctuary and our Fellowship Hall are being reconstructed. Our worship of God and service of God's people continue and we are delighted to have you join us.

Interested in the mission and activities of First Presbyterian Church?

Visit the church's website, www.firstpreshc.org for more info.

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The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County

9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD 21045

410.730.3545 | www.firstpreshc.org

Ministers: All members of the congregation

Kenneth Page, Interim Pastor
Virginia Callegary, Director of Christian Education
Dr. Margaret McGillivray, Director of Music Ministries
Megan Bondhus, Church Administrator
Pat Travers, Bookkeeper
Woodrow Collins, Church Sexton
Kathy Moore, Godly Play Coordinator
Marla Youkers, Nursery Coordinator
Sarah Reinhardt, Nursery Assistant

The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County is a congregation of
the Presbytery of Baltimore in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

✦ We are an Earth Care Congregation ✦

✦ We are a Matthew 25 Congregation ✦

Inspirit Counseling Services at First Presbyterian Church

Meredith Barger 410-433-8861 x104 | John Michalczyk 410-433-8861 x115

