



*The mission of GPPC is to embody God's love
by cultivating community, practicing hope, repairing harm, and doing justice as Jesus did.*

August 9, 2026

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

10:00am

+ indicates you are invited to stand

Bold print indicates congregation in unison

We are grateful to be gathered here in the Almond Creek-James River watershed, which we share with a diversity of plants and creatures, including the flowering dogwood, butterfly milkweed, striped bass, northern cardinal, and red fox.

We acknowledge that this land is the traditional territory of the Powhatan Confederacy. May we nurture our relationship with all our neighbors, and our shared responsibilities to this watershed where we gather today.

GATHERING

*The act of assembling in Jesus' name bears witness to the Church's identity and mission as Christ's body in the world.
Gather your thoughts and feelings. Entrust yourself to God's saving grace.*

Prelude

Elegiac Romance

John Ireland

Greeting and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Lord, you are our light,

All: In whom we see the life worth living.

One: Lord, you are our dwelling place,

All: In whom we find our home.

One: Lord, you are our beginning and our end.

All: We trust in you.

+ Hymn 645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Confession of Sin and Pain

Kenyan traditional

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.

Gracious God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you make room for us but we give you little space in our lives. As with a mother's tender hand you lead us, but we stubbornly insist on going our own way. We are your children but we act as if we do not need you. Help us, dearest Lord, to relax in your love and give us hope for each day so that we may spread your steadfast love to all whom we meet.

Silence

Assurance of Forgiveness and Healing

+ Gloria (Hymn 582) *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

WORD

*Where the scriptures are read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ, the living Word, is present by the power of the Holy Spirit.
God's Spirit also evokes our response. Through singing, affirmation, and prayer, with the help of God's Spirit,
we discern Jesus Christ, receive Christ's grace, and resolve to follow Christ's way.*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Revelation 22:1-7 (NRSVUE)

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴ they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place. See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Psalm 146

One: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

All: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

All: who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

One: The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.
The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked is brought to ruin.

All: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

John 14:1-7 (NRSVUE)

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Jesus, Elgar, and Newman: Help in Troubled Times"

Rubén Arjona



1. A place called home with com-fort for the wea-ry;
 2. A place called home where ten-der-ness can flour-ish;
 3. A place called home, a prom-ise for to-mor-row;
 4. A place called home for ev-'ry hu-man be-ing;

where one un-known be-comes a wel-come guest,
 where hurts are healed, a shel-ter from the storm,
 where love pre-vails and peace is ev-er found,
 where none are lost, a-lone or cast a-side,

a place called home of nour-ish-ment and rest;
 a place called home, a ha-ven from all harm;
 a place called home, a vi-sion hand-ed down;
 a place called home where arms are o-pened wide;

where love can find a hu-man hab-i-ta-tion;
 where peace can find a hu-man hab-i-ta-tion;
 where hope can find a hu-man hab-i-ta-tion;
 but mem-bers of a sin-gle hu-man fam-'ly;

a place called home that wel-comes in the stran-ger,
 a place called home where chil-dren sleep in safe-ty,
 a place called home for all God's sons and daugh-ters,
 a place called home where all ex-tend the wel-come,

God grant us all this grace: a place called home.
 God grant us all this grace: a place called home.
 God grant us all this grace: a place called home.
 God grant us grace to build a place called home.

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+ Affirmation of Faith

From "A Brief Statement of Faith," PCUSA

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

+ Somos Uno (Hymn 322)

We are one in Christ Jesus, all one body, all one spirit, all together.

Somos uno en Cristo, somos uno, somos uno, uno solo.

We share one God, one mighty Lord, one abiding faith, one binding love,

One single baptism, one Holy Comforter, the Holy Spirit, uniting all.

Prayers of the People

EUCCHARIST

Though we are not sharing the bread and cup today, we remember with thanksgiving (eukharistia) the grace (kharis) with which Jesus welcomes us to sit at his table, eat what will satisfy our deepest hungers, and feed others as we've been fed. We offer ourselves in response to Christ's wonderful offering of love.

Offering



Everyone is invited to place tithes, offerings, visitor cards, or any other communications to the Pastor or staff in the designated wall boxes beside each door at the back of the Sanctuary or signal an usher to bring you the offering plate.

Monetary gifts and pledges to GPPC may also be given online at <https://www.ginterparkpc.org/giving>, or by using the QR Code to the left.

(Interpreted in loving memory of Edwin Jeovanny López Cornejo, Prisciliano Trejo Ricano, Juan Jairo Coronilla Durán, Juan Manuel Arenas-Silva, Joan Sebastian Guerrero, Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, Adrian Andreas Florian, and at least sixty-five more lives lost under the immigration crackdown❖)

*Softly and gently, dearly-ransomed soul, in my most loving arms I now enfold thee,
And o'er the penal waters, as they roll, I poise thee, and I lower thee, and hold thee.
And carefully I dip thee in the lake, and thou, without a sob or a resistance,
Dost through the flood thy rapid passage take, sinking deep, deeper, into the dim distance.
Angels to whom the willing task is given, shall tend, and nurse, and lull thee, as liest;
And Masses on the earth, and prayers in heaven, shall aid thee at the Throne of the Most Highest.
Farewell, but not for ever! brother dear, be brave and patient on thy bed of sorrow;
Swiftly shall pass thy night of trial here, and I will come and wake thee on the morrow.
Farewell! Farewell!*

–John Henry Newman

+ Doxology (Hymn 607)

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.***

+ 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.**

SENDING

Our worship and service do not end with the postlude; we go forth to love and serve God in our daily lives.

+ Hymn 764 For the Troubles and the Sufferings

+ Charge and Blessing

+ The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

+ Postlude

Allegro maestoso from *Sonata in G*

Edward Elgar

Visitors - we're glad you're here! We believe God knows, loves, and welcomes you fully. We hope to welcome you in ways that reflect God's love. Could we reach out to you later this week - to say another hello, answer any questions you may have, and perhaps share our e-newsletter? If so, please scan this QR code to share your contact information.



ABOUT WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Our guest preacher today is Rubén Arjona. Rubén Arjona is Associate Professor of Pastoral Care at Union Presbyterian Seminary. He previously taught at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. An ordained Presbyterian minister, Arjona served congregations in Mexico City while teaching at various local seminaries. He worships at GPPC with his wife, Sara Avila, and his son, Santiago Arjona.

GPPC's Director of Music is Doug Brown. Today's liturgist is Rev Rosalind Banbury. Today's lector is April Swofford. The livestream operator is Bob Roybark. Steve Booth is lead usher. GPPC's Pastor, Carla Pratt Keyes, is on vacation.

❖For a list of people who have died under the immigration crackdown, see: <https://lataco.com/ice-death-tracker>

PLEASE TAKE THE PAPER BULLETIN YOU HAVE USED home for reference and/or recycling. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS about events in the life of GPPC are available through a weekly e-newsletter. If you would like to be added to the distribution, please contact Karen Mitscherlich at ginterparkpc@gmail.com.

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