



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

July 19, 2026

Eighth 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

Adagio-Vivace from Sonata No. 4

J.S. Bach

Greeting and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Jesus says, "I am the Way for you."

All: And so we come to follow Christ.

One: Jesus says, "I am the Truth for you."

All: And so we come to dwell in the light.

One: Jesus says, "I am the Life for you."

All: And so we come, leaving behind all else to which we cling.

+ Hymn 311 *Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather*

Confession of Sin and Pain

[a prayer by Katie Owen Aumann for the PCUSA]

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.

1. (lis - ten) 2. joy.

Gracious Lord, you created the whole world and called it good, but we look out at your world and see division and suffering. You call us to maintain the unity of spirit in the bond of peace, but we choose division over diversity, confrontation over civility, conflict over peace born from justice. You call us to love the least of these among us, but we hear the cries of the oppressed and choose our own comfort. We allow senseless suffering rather than sacrifice for our neighbors.

Forgive us. Grant us fresh vision to see one another as siblings in Christ. Rekindle in us your gifts — the spirit of power, love and self-discipline — that with faith in Christ, we may be made new and be part of bringing forth your peaceable kingdom.

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

John 14:1-14

"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."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

One: In you, WOMB OF LIFE, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

All: Incline your ear to me; quickly rescue me. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

One: You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

All: Into your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, ARK OF SAFETY, faithful God.

One: My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

All: Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to Christ, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of the one who called you out of darkness into God's marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

+ Hymn 762 *When the Poor Ones*

+ Affirmation of Faith

[A New Creed from the United Church of Canada]

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

+ 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.*

Offertory

A poetry reading by Bill Notter and Tara Bray

+ 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 729 *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

+ Charge and Blessing

+ The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

+ Postlude

Un Poco Allegro from Sonata No. 4

J.S. Bach

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: Organ playback operator is Dean Angert. Today's lector is Lindsey March. The livestream operator is Anna Creech. Owen Sharman is lead usher.

THANK YOU TO BILL NOTTER AND TARA BRAY for sharing their poetry as part of our worship. They both are Associate Professors in VCU's Department of Focused Inquiry. You can find more of their poetry online, in journals, and in books: *Holding Everything Down* (Bill), *Mistaken for Song*, and *Small Mothers of Fright* (Tara). Their daughter, Lily, first brought them to GPPC over a decade ago, and we've been grateful for their family ever since!

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.