



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

September 20, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

11:00am

+ 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

Psalm Prelude No. 2, Second Set

Herbert Howells

Even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. – Psalm 139:12

Greeting and Announcements

Introit

Doug Brown

So, the last will be first, and the first will be last. – Matthew 20:16

Call to Worship

[Thom Shuman, adapted]

One: In the sunshine and the songs, in the fellowship and the wonder:

All: we are given enough joy to live each day.

One: In the justice for the oppressed, in the unexpected generosity for the lost:

All: we are given enough compassion to use in service each day.

One: In the promises made to all, in the mercy offered to each:

All: we are given enough grace to share each day.

+ Hymn 611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Confession of Sin and Pain

[Katherine Hawker, adapted]

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.

One: As sabers rattle in lands both close and distant, we confess that we are in pain; fear has taken root in the souls of our being. Even as we turn to the parables, familiar stories that we thought we loved, we find troubling stories that offer ever more questions.

All: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, have mercy upon us.

One: We are loathe to take account of the many ways in which we unwittingly profit from the machinery of war and greed. Still we read the parables of Jesus, which fly in the face of social convention, offending those who dare to listen.

All: Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy, have mercy upon us.

One: Believing that we are insignificant, and at the same time fearful that we might become so, we are timid to use our voices to speak truth to a world of war and consumption. Now the parables of Jesus offer a new vision; now the servants dine and the masters serve; now the last becomes first, and the first becomes last.

All: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, have mercy upon us.

Silence.

Assurance of Forgiveness and Healing

One: Hear the good news of the Story that no sheep is unworthy of rescue, no coin too small to be missed.

Hear the good news that love is stronger than hate, and that this power is alive within you now and forever.

All: Amen.

+ 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

Exodus 16:2-15 (NRSVUE)

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.' " And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.' "

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

One: O give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name, make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples.
Sing to the LORD, sing praises; tell of all God's wonderful works.

**All: Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
Seek the LORD and strength of the LORD; seek God's presence continually.**

One: Remember the wonderful works God has done, the miracles, and the judgments God uttered,
O offspring of Abraham, children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

**All: Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.
And the LORD made the chosen people very fruitful, and made them stronger than their foes,**

One: whose hearts God then turned to hate the chosen people,
to deal craftily with the servants of the LORD.

**All: There came Moses, the servant of the LORD,
and Aaron whom God had chosen. Praise the LORD!**

Matthew 20:1-16 (NRSVUE)

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Carla Pratt Keyes

+ Hymn 774 *There Is Now a New Creation*

+ Affirmation of Faith

[from the PCUSA Study Catechism]

One: What is God's purpose for your life?

**All: God wills that I should live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the love of God,
and in the communion of the Holy Spirit.**

One: How do you live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**All: I am not my own. I have been bought with a price. The Lord Jesus Christ loved me and
gave himself for me. I entrust myself completely to his care, giving thanks each day
for his wonderful goodness.**

One: How do you live for the love of God?

**All: I love because God first loved me. God loves me in Christ with a love that never ends.
Amazed by grace, I no longer live for myself. I live for the Lord who died and rose again,
triumphant over death, for my sake. Therefore, I take those around me to heart,
especially those in particular need, knowing that Christ died for them no less than for me.**

One: How do you live in the communion of the Holy Spirit?

**All: By the Holy Spirit, I am made one with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am baptized into Christ's body,
the church, along with all others who confess him by faith. As a member of this community,
I trust in God's Word, share in the Lord's Supper, and turn to God constantly in prayer.
As I grow in grace and knowledge, I am led to do the good works that God intends for my life.**

+ 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.

At this time of year, Presbyterians share Christ's love with people around the world, through the **World Communion Offering**.

Donations may be made through GPPC two ways:

- the QR code above – choose "PCUSA Special Offering: World Communion Offering" from the drop-down menu
- check or cash – use an offering envelope from the Narthex and write "World Communion" on the envelope

Offertory

Come Before God's Presence

Richard Smallwood

Come before God's presence with thanksgiving; enter into His courts with praise and be thankful unto Him for He is worthy of all praise. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, and sing unto Him, all ye lands, and be thankful unto Him for He is worthy of all praise. For the Lord is good, and His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endureth forever. – From Psalm 100

Morgan Quinn, soloist

+ 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 80 (Sing three times) You Shall Go Out with Joy

+ Charge and Blessing

+ The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

+ Postlude

Psalm Prelude No. 3, Second Set

Herbert Howells

Sing unto the Lord a new song: play skillfully with a loud noise. - Psalm 33:3

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: GPPC's Pastor is Carla Pratt Keyes. Director of Music is Doug Brown. Today's lector is Kimberly Carswell. The livestream operator is Bob Roybark. Owen Sharman is lead usher and Kimberly Carswell is greeter.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES AND LARGE PRINT HYMNS are available from an usher in the Narthex.

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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