



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
 HILLSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 August 25, 2024 - 11:00 AM



Welcome to the Hillsville Presbyterian Church

"To live God's love and show God's grace through worship, fellowship and outreach."

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Throughout the Order of Worship, any words or phrases that are highlighted by **BOLD** print are to be spoken in unison by the congregation.

*Please stand if able

The Hymns are projected on the screen for your convenience.

Assisted Listening and Hearing Devices (ALDs) are available to all in need. If you need an ALDs, please request one from the usher on duty.

The church has Wi-Fi for your use. Use "hpcguest" and enter password "hpcguest".

Welcome and Announcements Brenda Collins

Call to Worship (verses from Psalm 84) Brenda Collins

Leader: Those who live in your house, Lord God, are truly happy; they praise you constantly.

People: Those who put their strength in you are truly happy!

Leader: Better is a single day in your courtyards than a thousand days anywhere else!

People: The Lord gives—doesn't withhold!—good things to those who walk with integrity!

***Hymn #451: "Open My Eyes, That I May See"**

Call to Confession (based on Galatians 5)

Among the many gifts from God we enjoy, we know that our freedom in Christ is one we tend to misuse. At times, we are more like animals that bite and chew on each other. Acting out of our selfish impulses, we set ourselves against the Spirit of God. Recognizing our need to be forgiven by the One we grieve, let us turn to God and confess together:

Prayer of Confession

Forgive us, O Lord, if we shy away from reading the Scriptures because we find them hard to understand. Forgive us if we fail to ask you for help in listening for your word to us. Forgive us if we think we can choose to honor only the instruction we like and disregard what makes us uncomfortable. Free our hearts today that we may be nourished with and molded by your living Word! Hear us as we ask for your mercy in Jesus' name. Amen.

Moments of Silence for Personal Confession

Words Assuring Us of God's Grace (based on Galatians 5)

Leader: Friends, God gives us the Spirit to lead and guide us as we walk in faith.

People: We praise the God who frees us from trying to live under the Law!

Leader: Filled with the Spirit we bear the fruit of love which keeps us from making each other angry or jealous.

People: We praise the Christ through whom we are forgiven and made new!

***Response #582: "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"**

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Understanding

Help us, O Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit, to hear and understand your word for us today! Inspire us, fill us, strengthen us so that we might bear witness to you in all we say and do! Hear us as we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Joshua 24:14-18

Brenda Collins

"So now, revere the Lord. Serve him honestly and faithfully. Put aside the gods that your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates and in Egypt and serve the Lord. But if it seems wrong in your opinion to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Choose the gods whom your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But my family and I will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "God forbid that we ever leave the Lord to serve other gods! The Lord is our God. He is the one who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. He has done these mighty signs in our sight. He has protected us the whole way we've gone and in all the nations through which we've passed. The Lord has driven out all the nations before us, including the Amorites who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God."

Second Scripture Reading: John 6:56-69

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in them. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me lives because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. It isn't like the bread your ancestors ate, and then they died. Whoever eats this bread will live forever." Jesus said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. Many of his disciples who heard this said, "This message is harsh. Who can hear it?" Jesus knew that the disciples were grumbling about this and he said to them, "Does this offend you? What if you were to see the Human One going up where he was before? The Spirit is the one who gives life and the flesh doesn't help at all. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. Yet some of you don't believe." Jesus knew from the beginning who wouldn't believe and the one who would betray him. He said, "For this reason I said to you that none can come to me unless the Father enables them to do so." At this, many of his disciples turned away and no longer accompanied him. Jesus asked the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered, "Lord, where would we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are God's holy one."

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

Moments of Silence for Reflection

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People 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.

***Words Affirming Our Faith** (from *A Declaration of Faith* ¹)

Brenda Collins

We testify God is at work here and now when people obey Christ's commission to witness to him and make disciples of all nations, when they spread the good news by their words and embody it in their lives. We believe that God sends us to tell all nations that Christ calls everyone to repentance, faith and obedience. We are to proclaim by word and deed that Christ gave himself to set people free from sin and self-hatred, from ignorance and disease, from all forms of oppression, and even from death. We are to offer them in Christ's name fullness of life now and forever. We must not distort the gospel by weakening its promises or demands, by identifying it with oppressive structures, by pointing to ourselves instead of Christ. We must not restrict our proclamation to persons just like ourselves. We invite people everywhere to believe in Christ and become his followers. We urge them to join us in telling others the good news and in struggling for justice, compassion, and peace.

***Hymn #314: "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"**

***Benediction: Philippians 2:13-16a**

***Response #606: "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

WE DEPART- OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND LIVES IN SERVICE TO GOD

¹ In 1985, the PCUSA adopted *A Declaration of Faith* as "a contemporary statement of faith, a reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy, and inspiration" even though it is not formally included in the Book of Confessions.

OUR CURRENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Linda Amburn	Recovering from surgery on broken kneecap, complications
Carolyn Anderson	Struggling with health issues, undergoing numerous tests
Stacey Bullion	Recently hospitalized with infection in his bones and blood
Carol Lanham	Undergoing cancer treatments
Debi Myers	Recovering from heart ablation procedure, complications of stroke
Ray Otto	Recovering from surgery on his broken back (Kathy Welch's brother)
Search for Music Leader	God's help and guidance!
RAE Center Staff	Blessings for a new school year!
Rev. Michael Weller	Under hospice care (brain cancer)
Judy Wilkins	Recovering from successful surgery to remove cancer
The World	Praying for peace, an end to war, violence, and suffering!
Julianna Wright	Blessings for mission work in South Africa

OUR HOMEBOUND

Mary Helen Blair (home)
Jean Talley (Our Lady of the Valley Nursing Home, Roanoke)

OUR ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS

Abingdon Presbytery	Debbie McCraw
Susan Alexander	Scott Mitchem
Stephanie Baron	Rob Moser
Shonda Blevins	William "Bill" Mowery
Missy Bolton	A.L. Noblett
Delores Brannock	Phyllis Oakley
Austin Burns	Jamie Sunderland
Rev. Kevin Campbell	Peggy Tolbert
Alafair Combs	Ron Wagner
Robert Gamble	Janie Walters
Betty Anne Gaskill	Teresa Webb
Tim Gaskill	Kathy Welch
Rev. Ann Elyse Hicks	Gray Williams
Shirley Hurst	Dan Worrell
Neal Hylton	Betty Semones Wyrick
Deb Linton	

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Our Leadership: Rev. Rebecca Taylor, Pastor; Nancy McDaniel, Clerk of Session; Vickie Mills, Treasurer;

Our Session: Nancy McDaniel, Carol Lanham, Susan Mowery, Vickie Mills, Faye Gunn, Charles Collins, Ted Westmoreland

Elder of the Month: Susan Mowery (954) 983-8819

Hymn 451

1 Open my eyes that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

2 Open my ears that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear,
and while the wave notes fall on my ear,
ev'rything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

3 Open my mouth and let me bear
gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere.
Open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my mouth, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Hymn 582

1 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.

2 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.

Hymn 314

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Chorus: Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered
today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. Chorus

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. Chorus

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. Chorus

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. Chorus

Hymn 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.