



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
 HILLSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 Sixth Sunday of Eastertide
 May 5, 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

Welcome and Announcements Sarah Griggs & Steve Rickstrew

Prelude: Prelude on "Morning Song" arr. C. E. Walz

Call to Worship (verses from Psalm 101) Sarah & Steve

Leader: Oh, Lord, let me sing about faithful love and justice! I want to sing my praises to you!

People: I want to study the way of integrity. I will walk with a heart of integrity in my own house.

Leader: A corrupt heart will be far from me. I won't be familiar with evil.

People: My eyes focus on those who are faithful in the land, to have them close to me.

***Hymn #410: "God Is Calling through the Whisper"**

Call to Confession (based on Psalm 103)

We know that our days on earth are brief, like a flower that blooms but is quickly forgotten. We are aware that while we live, we need forgiveness, healing, and salvation which are the wondrous works of God. Let us then turn to our God and ask for the grace we need as we pray together:

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we often make it difficult for you to reach us. We talk more than we listen. We're on the go more than we sit still. We give more of our attention to the voices of the culture to the silence through which you might speak. Forgive us for resisting your open friendship! With your gentle grace, dismantle the barriers between us so that we might hear you more clearly and respond to you more wholeheartedly. Hear us as we ask for your mercy in Jesus' name. Amen.

Moments of Silence for Personal Confession

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".

Words Assuring Us of God's Grace (based on Psalm 103)

Leader: Hear this good news: the Lord is compassionate and merciful, very patient, and full of faithful love!

People: Thanks be to God that as high as heaven is above the earth, that's how large God's faithful love is for us!

Leader: Take heart: as far as east is from west, that's how far God has removed our sin from us!

People: Praise God that God feels compassion for us and forgives us in Jesus Christ!

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

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Understanding

You, O God, are the only living source of the words that bring new life – why would we go anywhere else to receive what we need? May your presence be felt and your truth be heard as we worship you today! Receive our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Genesis 35:9-15

Sarah Griggs & Steve Rickstrew

God appeared to Jacob again, while he was on his way back from Paddan Aram, and blessed him. God said to him, "Your name is Jacob, but your name will be Jacob no longer. No, your name will be Israel." And he named him Israel. God said to him, "I am El Shaddai. Be fertile and multiply. A nation, even a large group of nations, will come from you; kings will descend from your own children. The land I gave to Abraham and to Isaac, I give to you; and I will give the land to your descendants after you." Then God ascended, leaving him alone in the place where he spoke to him. So Jacob set up a sacred pillar, a stone pillar, at the place God spoke to him. He poured an offering of wine on it and then poured oil over it. Jacob named the place Bethel where God spoke to him.

Special Music: "His Eye Is on the Sparrow"
(Hymn #661)

Charles H. Gabriel
Offered by Elaine Noe & Carol Lanham

You are invited to join us on Verse 3. The music will be shown on the screen in front.

Second Scripture Reading: John 15:9-17

“As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than to give up one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I don’t call you servants any longer, because servants don’t know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. You didn’t choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.”

The Word of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

God’s Word Engaged: “*Sweet Everythings*”

Rev. Rebecca Taylor

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)

Sarah & Steve

In his concern for justice in the social order, God has never forgotten the needs of individuals. In the end the Lord will judge all persons by the simple, unremembered acts of kindness they did or failed to do for the least of their sisters and brothers. We acknowledge God is at work here and now when people show personal concern for each other and work to make helping agencies, including the church itself, more compassionate. We believe God sends us to risk our own peace and comfort in compassion for our neighbors. We are to give to them and receive from them, accepting everyone we meet as a person; to be sensitive to those who suffer in body or mind; to help and accept help in ways that affirm dignity and responsibility. We must not limit our compassion to those we judge deserving, for we ourselves do not deserve the compassion of God.

¹ In 1985, the PCUSA adopted the *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.

***Hymn #692: “Spirit, Open My Heart”**

***Benediction: I Thessalonians 5:23-24**

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

Postlude: “He Is King”

arr. Colin Curtis

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

OUR CURRENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Carolyn Anderson	Struggling with health issues, undergoing tests
Rev. Kevin Campbell	Preparing for cancer surgery May 16 th
John Lintecum	Struggling with health issues (blood cancer)
William “Bill” Mowery	Struggling with numerous health issues
A.L. Noblett	Struggling with failing health
RAE Center Teachers/Staff	Needing support for the school year!
Rev. Michael Weller	Facing end-of-life options (brain cancer)
The World	Praying for peace, an end to war and suffering!
Betty Semones Wyrick	Recovering from a stroke; moved to a care facility

OUR HOMEBOUND

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

OUR ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS

Abingdon Presbytery	Ralph Ellison	Liz Ingersoll	Samuel Terry
Susan Alexander	Michelle Frank	Deb Linton	Peggy Tolbert
Janet Rae Banks	Robert Gamble	Debbie McCraw	Celeste Tsaklis
Stephanie Baron	Betty Anne Gaskill	John McCurdy	Ron Wagner
Dodie Braith	Tim Gaskill	Scott Mitchem	Janie Walters
Delores Brannock	Rev. Ann Elyse Hicks	Rob Moser	Teresa Webb
Austin Burns	Bill Hicks	Debi Myers	Kathy Welch
College Friend of Jim’s	Shirley Hurst	Jenny Nester	Lauren Whorley
John Collins	Parker Hysell	Elizabeth Porter	Gray Williams
Alafair Combs	Neal Hylton	Karen Sexton	Dan Worrell

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Our Leadership: Rev. Rebecca Taylor, Pastor; Nancy McDaniel, Clerk of Session; Vickie Mills, Treasurer;
Jim Spraker, Interim Music Director

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

Elder of the Month: Charles Collins (276) 733-7965

Hymn 410

1. God is calling through the whisper
Of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
Through the thrill of sudden beauties
That can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;
Hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling – can you hear?
God is calling – can you hear?

2. God is calling through the voices
Of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
Through their longing for redemption
And for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing;
Strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling – can you hear?
God is calling – can you hear?

3. God is calling through the music
Of sublime and human arts,
Through the hymns of earth and angels
And the carols of our hearts,
Lift of joy and gift of singing;
Days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling – can you hear?
God is calling – can you hear?

Hymn 661 (v.3)

3 Whenever I am tempted,
whenever clouds arise,
when song gives place to sighing,
when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to him,
From care he sets me free:
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me. *
*Refrain: I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
for his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.

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.

Hymn 692

Chorus:
Spirit, Open my heart
To the joy and pain of living
As you love may I love
In receiving and in giving
Spirit, Open my heart

1. God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. *Chorus.*

2. Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory. *Chorus.*

3. May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another. *Chorus*

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