



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
 HILLSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 World Communion Sunday
 October 6, 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

Susan Mowery

Call to Worship (*Written by Thom Shuman*)

Susan Mowery

Leader: Neighbors and newcomers, families and strangers.

People: We gather in this place built by God's steadfast love.

Leader: Strugglers and stragglers, pilgrims almost at the end of the journey.

People: Each of us seeks to follow Jesus, the compassionate One.

Leader: Builders of bridges in fractured communities, those who stand on either side of walls of fear,

All: The Spirit of faithfulness calls us to live as one people – God's people!

***Hymn #301: "Let Us Build a House"**

Call to Confession (*Written by Thom Shuman*)

Do we really want God to dwell within us, or are we only willing to "rent out" space for a brief visit? Our actions, our words, our silence, our fears all show the presence, or absence, of God in our lives. Let us empty ourselves of all which burdens us, and welcome the One who lives with us forever. Please join me as we pray:

Prayer of Confession

Steadfast God, we confess that we are so busy putting up walls between ourselves and others, we cannot see the home you are building for all of us. We spend so much time noting the differences between us and others, while you are embracing everyone as your child. We run to welcome those who look, talk, and act like us, and you throw open your doors to the stranger and alien in our midst. Forgive us, faithful God. By your grace, help us to see the household you are building for all people: there are no plastic protectors on the furniture; there are no rooms that are off-limits; and even the smallest child is welcome to sit at the big peoples' Table and be fed by your grace. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our peace, our hope, our Lord, our Savior. Amen.

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".

Moments of Silence for Personal Confession

Words Assuring Us of Pardon

Leader: Do you remember? At one time, you were without Christ; you were the stranger, the outsider, and the alien. But now, in Christ, you have been brought home, living in God's household of hope and peace.

People: God's covenant with us is everlasting; God's steadfast love is forever; God's forgiveness makes us new and whole. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***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.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22

So, remember that once you were Gentiles by physical descent, who were called "uncircumcised" by Jews who are physically circumcised. At that time, you were without Christ. You were aliens rather than citizens of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of God's promise. In this world you had no hope and no God. But now, thanks to Christ Jesus, you who once were so far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us. He canceled the detailed rules of the Law so that he could create one new person out of the two groups, making peace. He reconciled them both as one body to God by the cross, which ended the hostility to God. When he came, he announced the good news of peace to you who were far away from God and to those who were near. We both have access to the Father through Christ by the one Spirit. So now you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God's people, and you belong to God's household. As God's household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. The whole building is joined together in him, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord. ²² Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

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

Reflecting on God's Word: "*Walls Come Tumblin' Down*"

Rev. Ann Elyse Hicks

Moments of Silence for Reflection

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.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***Hymn #692: "Spirit, Open My Heart"**

Celebrating the Feast of Faith

Invitation

Words from Scripture Concerning the Meal (I Corinthians 11:23-26)

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Words Affirming Our Faith** (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*¹)

Susan Mowery

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

***Hymn #761: "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

*Benediction

***Response #765: "May the God of Hope Go with Us"**

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

¹ When the PCUSA was formed in 1983, the *Plan for Reunion* called for the formulation of a new creed. The resulting document, *A Brief Statement of Faith*, "celebrates our rediscovery that for all our undoubted diversity, we are bound together by a common faith and a common task" as it "lifts up concerns that call most urgently for the church's attention in our time." ([Book of Confessions](#)).

OUR CURRENT PRAYER CONCERNS

Hallie Bea Barnard	Health challenges re: surgery, cancer, treatments
Donna Mayberry	Recovering from surgery on broken arm after a fall
Jeanne & Rob Moser	Home severely damaged in storm, personal property lost
Lindsay Mowery	Recovering from a fall
Search for Music Leader	God's help and guidance!
RAE Center Staff	Blessings for a new school year!
Peggy Tolbert	Praying that she will complete life's journey soon!
Victims of storms, flooding	Praying for comfort, strength as cleanup begins, losses assessed
Rev. Michael Weller	Under hospice care (brain 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	Betty Anne Gaskill	Phyllis Oakley
Susan Alexander	Tim Gaskill	Ray Otto
Linda Amburn	Rev. Ann Elyse Hicks	Jamie Sunderland
Carolyn Anderson	Neal Hylton	Jerry Varn
Shonda Blevins	Carol Lanham	Ron Wagner
Shelley Bolton	Deb Linton	Janie Walters
Delores Brannock	Debbie McCraw	Teresa Webb
Stacey Bullion	Scott Mitchem	Kathy Welch
Austin Burns	Rob Moser	Gray Williams
Rev. Kevin Campbell	William "Bill" Mowery	Dan Worrell
Alafair Combs	Debi Myers	Betty Semones Wyrick
Robert Gamble	A.L. Noblett	

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

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

Elder of the Month: Nancy McDaniel (540) 529 -6610

Hymn 301

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions.

Chorus-

All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets
speak,
And words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one, we claim the faith of Jesus:
Chorus.

3 Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine, and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground,
Where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
Is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees
us: *Chorus.*

4 Let us build a house where hands will
reach
Beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen serve and teach
And live the word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
Bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:
Chorus.

5 Let us build a house where all are named,
Their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and
claimed
As words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter
Prayers of faith and songs of grace;
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
Chorus.

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 761

1. Called as partners in Christ's service,
Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfill God's chosen end.

2. Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering,
Reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
All God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold.

3. Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
In a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens,
Breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
Words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action,
Make us colleagues, free and fair.

4. So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
Our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace.

Hymn 582 - Response

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 765 - Response

May the God of hope go with you every day,
Fill all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our
way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and
race.
Praying, let us work for peace;
Singing, share our joy with all;
Working for a world that's new,
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.