



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
HILLSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026 - 11:00 AM



Welcome to the Hillsville Presbyterian Church
"To live God's grace and show God's love through worship, fellowship and service."

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

Ken Gunn

Call to Worship

Ken Gunn

Leader: From our earliest days to the years of our later life, God has been our refuge and our strength.

People: We come to worship the God who has carried us through every season.

Leader: There is a time for every season under heaven—a time for joy, a time for sorrow, and a time to trust in God's faithfulness.

People: Whatever season we are living, our lives remain in God's hands.

Leader: For to live is Christ, and even death cannot separate us from the hope we have in Him.

All: Let us worship God, whose grace has sustained us, whose love surrounds us, and whose promises give us hope. Amen.

***Hymn #39: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"**

Call to Confession

As we journey through life, we sometimes rely more on our own strength than on God's grace. We try to control what we cannot control, take our blessings for granted, and allow fear or worry to overshadow our trust in God. Yet God remains faithful through every season. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins together.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and loving God, You have carried us through more seasons than we can count, yet we confess that we do not always recognize Your presence. We have tried to manage life in our own strength. We have worried about the future, struggled with changes we could not prevent, and sometimes allowed disappointment or fear to weaken our trust. Forgive us when we measure our worth by what we accomplish, rather than resting in the grace You freely give us in Jesus Christ. When our bodies grow weaker, remind us that Your love remains strong. When we face loss, give us comfort. When we struggle with doubt, grant us faith. When we feel forgotten or alone, remind us that we remain in Your care. Teach us to trust You in every season of life, to receive each day as a gift, and to share with others the story of Your faithfulness. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and our hope. Amen.

Moments of Silence for Personal Confession

Words Assuring Us of God's Grace

Hear the good news: Our salvation does not depend on our strength, our accomplishments, or the perfection of our faith. It rests entirely on the grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ. The God who has sustained us through every season will not abandon us now. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and held securely in God's hands.

People: Thanks be to God! Our hope is in Christ, and His grace is sufficient for us. Amen.

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

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Understanding

Faithful God, as we hear Your Word today, open our minds to Your truth and our hearts to Your grace. Through the psalmist, remind us that we may depend on You throughout our lives. Through Ecclesiastes, help us accept the changing seasons we cannot control. Through Paul's words, renew our confidence that Christ gives meaning to our lives and hope beyond death. May we learn that growing older need not mean growing fearful, and that growing deeper in faith does not mean having every answer. Help us trust the One who has carried us this far and who holds our future. Let Your Word strengthen our faith, comfort our hearts, and inspire us to encourage others with the story of Your faithfulness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Philippians 1:21-23 NRSV

Ken Gunn

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

Second Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 CEB

Ken Gunn

There's a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens: a time for giving birth and a time for dying, a time for planting and a time for uprooting what was planted, a time for killing and a time for healing, a time for tearing down and a time for building up, a time for crying and a time for laughing, a time for mourning and a time for dancing, a time for throwing stones and a time for gathering stones, a time for embracing and a time for avoiding embraces, a time for searching and a time for losing, a time for keeping and a time for throwing away, a time for tearing and a time for repairing, a time for keeping silent and a time for speaking, a time for loving and a time for hating, a time for war and a time for peace.

***Anthem: "Turn, Turn, Turn" (congregation sing along)**

by Pete Seeger

Offered by HPC Choir, guitar accompaniment by Russ McDaniel

Third Scripture Reading: Psalm 71:1-9 CEB

I've taken refuge in you, LORD. Don't let me ever be put to shame! Deliver me and rescue me by your righteousness! Bend your ear toward me and save me! Be my rock of refuge where I can always escape. You commanded that my life be saved because you are my rock and my fortress. My God, rescue me from the power of the wicked; rescue me from the grip of the wrongdoer and the oppressor because you are my hope, Lord. You, LORD, are the one I've trusted since childhood. I've depended on you from birth—you cut the cord when I came from my mother's womb. My praise is always about you. I've become an example to many people because you are my strong refuge. My mouth is filled with your praise, glorifying you all day long. Don't cast me off in old age. Don't abandon me when my strength is used up.

Psalm 71:17-18 CEB

You've taught me since my youth, God, and I'm still proclaiming your wondrous deeds! So, even in my old age with gray hair, don't abandon me, God! Not until I tell generations about your mighty arm, tell all who are yet to come about your strength.

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

God's Word Engaging Us: *"Growing Older, Growing Deeper"*

David Welch, Elder

Moments of Silence for Reflection

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our 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** (The Apostle's Creed)

Ken Gunn

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn #463 - "How Firm a Foundation"**

***Charge and Benediction**

***Response #542: "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"** (*verse 1 only*)

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

Thank you, David Welch, for leading us in worship today

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 39

**1.Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.
Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me**

**2.Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

Refrain

**3.Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.
Refrain**

Hymn 542 - Response

**God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

Hymn 463 – How Firm a Foundation

**1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand."**

**3 "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."**

**4 "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."**

**5 "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"**