



Old Presbyterian Meeting House

SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 17, 2023 | 10:00 AM

PRELUDE

"Hommage à J. S. Bach" from *Little Jazz Suite*
Daniel Dickinson, alto saxophone

Hans André-Stamm
(b. 1958)

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

WELCOME

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Rev. Katherine Stanford

INTROIT

Because You Came
text by Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)
Daniel Dickinson, clarinet

Amanda Husberg (b. 1940)
arr. S. Seigart (b. 1990)

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Exodus 15

I will sing to the LORD, who has triumphed gloriously.
The LORD is my strength and my might,
And the LORD has become my salvation;
This is my God, and I will sing praises.

▲ HYMN 619

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus, you have called us to be a radically alternative community, a beacon that shows the world a vision of something new and wonderful, something you called the Kingdom of God. But all too often, we look little different from the world around us. Both as individuals, and as a church community, we fail to live into the ways you taught us. Forgive us, and let us hear you calling us once more. Pour out the Holy Spirit on us, and empower us to be your living body in the world.

Please join in silent prayer.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 551

Lord, have mercy

LAND OF REST

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

▲ ACT OF PRAISE 515 V. 1

I Come With Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

**I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free, the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.**

▲ THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

GOD'S WORD TO US

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 14:1-12

ANTHEM

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
text by Robert Robinson (1735-1790)
Daniel Dickinson, clarinet

Anonymous
arr. Robert Hebble (1934-2020)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Commissioning of Teachers

Mrs. Noelle Castin

*Following children's time, children age 4 through 3rd grade are invited to attend
Bridges to Worship in heaven (top floor, Education Building).*

**I am a child of God, You are a child of God. Whoever you are, wherever you may be.
We are all one family, We are children of God.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 18:21-35

SERMON

Absurd Community

Rev. James Sledge

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

▲ HYMN 738

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

MARYTON

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Open Table

Morgan Jones

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.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“Agnus Dei” from *Nidaros Jazz Mass*

Bob Chilcott

Translation: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

(b. 1955)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

text from the Mass Ordinary

Daniel Dickinson, alto saxophone

▲ DOXOLOGY 607

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

▲ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

▲ HYMN 438

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

TOPLADY

▲ OUR LIFE TOGETHER AND BENEDICTION

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Steven Seigart

▲ POSTLUDE

Rock of Ages

tune from *Southern Harmony* (1835)
arr. by Craig Curry (b. 1966)

▲ Please stand as you are able

Congregation reads the "**bold**" text

MUSIC NOTES

As we read of the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant, we ponder what it means to forgive and be forgiven, and we will sing of God's grace and forgiveness with popular hymns like "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven" (in a newer inclusive version) and Augustus Toplady's "Rock of Ages." We're happy to have guest clarinetist and saxophonist SSG Daniel Dickinson here with us today as well, who you last heard at our May Concert With A Cause. We'll have a brief preview of this year's Jazz service on October 15, with music from British composer and original King's Singer Bob Chilcott's *Nidaros Jazz Mass* (written for Nidaros Cathedral in Norway), and we'll also premiere an arrangement I wrote of New York-based hymn writer Amanda Husberg's tune to New Zealand poet Shirley Erena Murray's text on forgiveness, set here for solo clarinet and choir, *a cappella*. Finally, for today's anthem, you'll hear an arrangement of a popular hymn by American organist Robert Hebble, who rose to fame as Virgil Fox's assistant (and frequent fill-in) at Riverside Church in New York City, and later as a composer of choral and organ music. He is often called a "colorist" composer—that is, music with a variety of (and constantly shifting) harmonies the way an artist might mix colors.

TODAY

Our prayers are newly offered for Martha Gibson's cousin, Katelyn.

Join us following worship in the Courtyard for Fellowship Time hosted by the Service and Justice Ministry.

COMING UP

Celebrate Constitution Day today by ringing our church bell following worship service. Constitution Day celebrates the day that members of the Constitutional Convention signed the U.S. Constitution on 17 September 1787. The line to ring our bell will form at the north bell tower porch immediately after the service.

Youth Kick-Off BBQ, September 17, 5:30-7:30 PM, RSVP mpratt@opmh.org

Blood Drive, September 24, 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM, opmh.org/blooddrive

Inquirers Membership Class, October 15, 22 and 29, 9:30-10:30. Register at opmh.org/inquire

All-Church Retreat, November 3-5, Re-Finding Church: Faith and Life in a Changed World with Rev. Dr. Alexander Evans. opmh.org/2023retreat

ONGOING SUNDAYS

Childcare for infants and toddlers

9:15 AM-12:15 PM, Room 14 – Education Building

Children's Sunday School

9:30-10:45 AM, Children's Sunday

Youth Group: Middle School and High School

For schedules, contact Mary Pratt Perry, mpratt@opmh.org

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Exploring Faith Through Art, Grades 6 to Adult welcome!

Sundays, 9:30 - 10:40 AM

Family Faith Formation - Parents of all ages are welcome!

Sundays, 10:00-10:40 AM,

Connections Café

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 AM

Adult Education - Living into Hope

Sundays, 9:30-10:40 AM

Genesis – Grace from the Beginning

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM or 7:00 PM

Enough: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity

Mondays, 8:00 PM, Tuesdays, 1:00 PM, Thursdays, 7:00 PM

Sign up at opmh.org/enough

Centering Prayer

Mondays, 6:00-6:30 PM, Wednesdays, 12:00-12:30 PM

Looking into the Lectionary

Thursdays, 10:00 AM, Zoom

Visit opmh.org or contact Noelle Castin, ncastin@opmh.org, to learn more.

WAYS TO GIVE

1. Place your offering in the offering plates.
2. Give online at opmh.org/give or snap the QR code at right.
3. Text *opmh* to 73256
4. Mail a check to 323 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria, VA 22314.



ABOUT OUR WORSHIP & LEADERS

Duty Elder is Jenny Parker.

Duty Deacon is Terri Beam.

Today's flowers are arranged by Harriett Clark.

Assistive listening devices and large print hymnals are available in the Narthex. Ask an usher for assistance.

We're Online!

Live worship: opmh.org/livestream

Recordings: vimeo.com/showcase/opmh

Our Staff Team:

Rev. James Sledge, Transitional Pastor

Rev. Katherine Stanford, Associate Pastor

Rev. Ann Herlin, Associate Pastor

Dr. Steven Seigart, Dir of Music and Organist

Mrs. Noelle Castin, Dir of Christian Education

Mrs. Mary Pratt Perry, Youth Director

Mr. Aaron Siirila, Business Administrator

Mrs. Ellen Haas, Administrative Specialist

Mrs. Vicki Stones, Communications/Office Mgr

Mr. David Heiby, Presbyterian Cemetery

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