



Gogh, Vincent van, 1853-1890, Red Vineyards near Arles, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

Old Presbyterian Meeting House

SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 1, 2023 | 11:00 AM

PRELUDE

Deep River

Spiritual, arr. Joe Utterback
(b. 1944)

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

WELCOME

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Rev. Katherine Stanford

INTROIT

Praise Him, All Ye Little Children
sung by the Children's Choir

Carey Bonner
(1859-1938)

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 105

Servants of God, lift up your heads—
That the Lord of life may behold our eyes!
Servants of God, lift up your hearts—
That the Lord of life may abide within!

▲ HYMN 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus, you have invited us to follow you, to walk in the ways you teach us and show us. We know that you call us to live simply, to love our neighbor as ourselves, to love even our enemy. But very often, we are content to believe in you. You have called us to bear fruit, to live in ways that show your love, to work for a better world. But very often, we are content to worship you. Loving Christ, heal our foolishness, and call us once more to be your disciples. Fill us with the Spirit and empower us to walk in your ways and show your love to a hurting 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

Philippians 2:1-13

ANTHEM

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Suzanne Karpov Seigart, soprano solo

Spiritual

arr. Margaret Bonds (1913-1972)

and Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Bridges to Worship does not meet the first Sunday of each month.

Mrs. Noelle Castin

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 21:23-32

SERMON

Daring to Follow Jesus

Rev. James Sledge

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

▲ HYMN 765

May the God of Hope Go with Us

ARGENTINA

sung twice

▲ 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.

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

Murassalat Nina Kulumurassalat

traditional Sudanese

Translation: We are all ambassadors, ambassadors of Jesus. Tell it to all people that there are witnesses here, ambassadors of Jesus. Hallelujah! There are witnesses here, ambassadors of Jesus.

▲ 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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

All Communion bread is gluten-free and the cup is juice. The ushers will invite you to come to the table. Receive the elements by intinction (take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup). Return to your pew by a side aisle. If you wish to receive communion in your pew, please let an usher know.

Liturgy

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

Sanctus 595 (*sing*)

Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!

My heart knows how to say to you: You are holy, Lord!

▲ HYMN 546

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

SICILIAN MARINERS

▲ OUR LIFE TOGETHER AND BENEDICTION

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Will Todd

▲ POSTLUDE

Toccata (Improvisation)

Steven Seigart
(b. 1990)

▲ Please stand as you are able

Congregation reads the "**bold**" text

MUSIC NOTES

For World Communion Sunday, we'll have music from around the world, including Spirituals which carry with them a unique blending of traditional African and Christian music of the colonies, music from Argentina and from Sudan. We're so happy to have the Children's Choir singing in our opened-up chancel space, and to offer some recently composed organ music by composer and bodybuilder Joe Utterback and a freshly improvised French-style toccata by yours truly. Today's anthem is by Margaret Bonds, a remarkable figure in African American music of the 20th century, who wrote music in almost every genre, including stage and choral works. In the late 90s, noted composer and conductor Moses Hogan formed his Moses Hogan Singers that championed the spiritual genre—adapting Bonds' calm and introspective arrangement of this "Sunday School" song for a *cappella* choir (from voice and piano). For the final verse, Hogan's arrangement is entirely original, with new, powerful harmonies that bring this work into the 21st century with his unique colorful sonorities. And lastly, the Offertory piece is one I learned from *The Hymn Society in the US and Canada* from their collection "Singing Welcome": an energetic and contagious chant from Sudan.

TODAY

Our prayers continue for Mitch Michener.

Join us following worship in the Courtyard for Fellowship Time hosted by the Worship Ministry.

COMING UP

Jazz Worship Service, A Little Jazz Mass, October 15, 11:00 AM, opmh.org/music-ministry

Step Alive! Walk-a-thon, October 15, 2:00 PM, opmh.org/stepalive

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, Education Building

Youth Group

Middle School, 4:30-6:30 PM, **High School**, 6:00-8:00 PM, Fellowship Hall
Dinner for All, 6:00 PM

Exploring Faith Through Art, Grades 6 to Adult

Sundays, 9:30 AM, Flounder 1B

Family Faith Formation - Parents of all ages

Sundays, 10:00 AM, Heaven, Education Building Top Floor

Connections Café, Sundays, 9:30 AM, Parlor, Elliot House

Adult Education - Aging with Faith and Joy

Sundays, 9:30 AM, Heritage Hall, Elliot House

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Centering Prayer, Mondays, 6:00 PM, Wednesdays, 12:00 PM, Zoom

Looking into the Lectionary, Thursdays, 10:00 AM, Zoom

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

SESSION UPDATE

- approved a motion by the Worship Ministry to begin 8:30 AM Sunday worship services on October 22
- added Juneteenth as a paid holiday at OPMH
- approved motions by the Service & Justice Ministry to direct *Messiah* concert donations toward Open Table on December 10, and collect the Peace and Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday
- accepted the recommendation by the Stewardship & Finance Ministry to create a donor-restricted fund entitled “Grounds and landscape care and preservation” and accept donations to this fund.
- heard reports from the various ministries, Deacons, and Chancel Working Group.

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 Elders are George Welle and Rob Brewer.

Duty Deacon is Dave Branding.

Today's flowers are arranged by Bob Phillips.

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. Walter Elias, Facilities
Mrs. Maria Elias, Facilities
Mrs. Mirna Toscano, Facilities
Mr. David Heiby, Presbyterian Cemetery

Contact the Church Office:

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