



First
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
of Cumberland, MD

Empowered to love, serve, care, and give

FALL KICK-OFF ROCKY GAP STATE PARK

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

MORNING HAS BROKEN
JUDITH BROWN, KEYBOARD

ARR. J. BROWN

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

The saying is sure:

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Jesus welcomed the lost and ate with them.

God renews stubborn hearts and softens stiff necks.

So we come boldly to worship the God of mercy.

Let us rejoice in the grace of our Lord!

Let us pray -

God of grace and mercy, we thank you for disregarding our foolishness and teaching us your holy wisdom. Instill in us the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus, who rejoices whenever what was lost is found. Amen.

* HYMN #15

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

"LASST UNS ERFREUEN"

Unison

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice
2 O broth-er wind with clouds and rain, you nur-ture gifts
3 O broth-er fire, so warm and bright, chase off the shad-
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain

and with us sing, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
of fruit and grain. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
ows of the night. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
or sor-row grieve, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Unison

O broth-er sun with gold-en beam, O sis-ter moon
O sis-ter wa-ter, flow-ing clear, make mu-sic for
Dear moth-er earth, who day by day un-folds such bless-
Christ bears your bur-dens and your fears; so, e-ven in

harmony

with sil-ver gleam, sing prais-es! Al-le-lu-ia!
your Lord to hear. Sing prais-es! Al-le-lu-ia!
ings on our way, sing prais-es! Al-le-lu-ia!
the midst of tears, sing prais-es! Al-le-lu-ia!

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we wander from your ways like lost sheep. You seek us, but we hide. You call us, but we do not listen. You rejoice over the lost who are found, but we often judge instead of celebrate.

We cling to self-righteousness, forgetting that we too are carried home on your shoulders. We hoard your grace as if it were ours to control, rather than rejoicing that heaven celebrates every sinner restored.

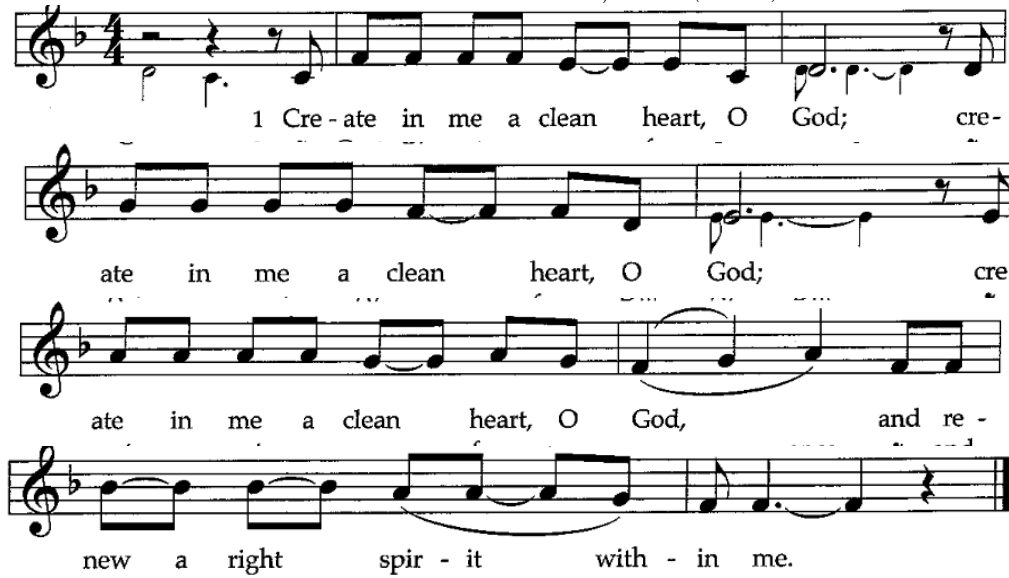
Forgive us, O God. Search for us again, lift us up in your mercy, and bring us home to the joy of your presence, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #423

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD (Verse 1)

"SARADAY"



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

Please stand and greet those in the pews near you. Send a wave to the camera for those joining online.

We recognize how important we are to each other; we belong to each other and are stronger together.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALM 14

¹ Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." They are corrupt; they do abominable deeds; there is no one who does good.

² The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God.

³ They have all gone astray; they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one.

⁴ Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the Lord?

⁵ There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the company of the righteous.

⁶ You would confound the plans of the poor, but the Lord is their refuge. ⁷ O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion! When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

SOLO

PASS IT ON

KURT KAISER

CAROLYN MATHEWS, GUITAR

SECOND READING

LUKE 15:1-10

¹⁵ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸ "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

* HYMN #649

AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND

"AMAZING GRACE"

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright
 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to
 now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO OFFERING

(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)

OFFERTORY SOLO

JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE
 CAROLYN MATHEWS, GUITAR

ARR. ANNE MURRAY

* DOXOLOGY #658

GOD IS SO GOOD (Verse 1)

"GOD IS SO GOOD"

1 God is so good; God is so good;
 God is so good; God's so good to me.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER- Ecumenical Version

(You are welcome to pray the Lord's Prayer with the version most familiar to you.)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

We are march-ing in the light of God; we are march-ing in the
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God;
we are march-ing in the light of, the light of God.
We are march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing, march-ing,
we are march-ing in the light of, the light of God.
We are march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing, march-ing,
we are march-ing in the light of God.

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #306

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS (Verse 1)

"DENNIS"

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

POSTLUDE

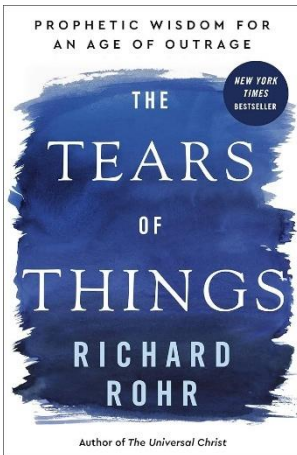
AMAZING GRACE
JUDITH BROWN, KEYBOARD

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preacher.....	Rev. Alison Peters
Liturgist.....	Julie Courtney
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....	Judith Brown
Musician.....	Carolyn Mathews, Guitar
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Bob and Sharon Kazary

Adult Sunday School resumes on September 21st and we will be continuing our study from September until Advent. We will be using N.T. Wright's, *Revelation* to get a "remarkably clear glimpse into God's ultimate design for the entire creation. We will be looking into how Jesus the Messiah's triumph and the resulting costly victory of his followers overcome the powerful evil forces at work, particularly with idolatrous and oppressive political systems." Class will begin at 10:00 AM in the Dakota Room, but fellowship is always welcome, beginning at 9:45 AM! **Sign up and pick up your book in Brittany's office.**



Join us this fall for an adult Bible Study. We will meet on Thursday evenings in the Gathering Space, beginning Thursday, October 9th and ending on Thursday, November 13th.

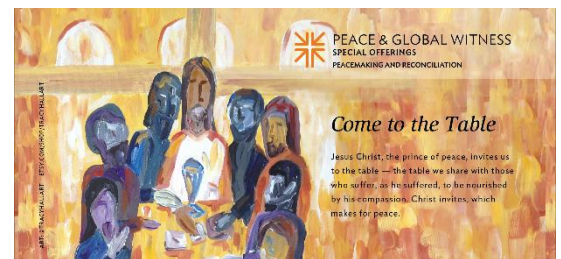
How do we live compassionately in a time of violence and despair? How do we manage conflict and suffering in our lives and in the world? Holy Scripture gives us wisdom and practice, particularly through the lives and writings of the Hebrew prophets. Using Richard Rohr's new book *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for An Age of Outrage* as a guide, we will study the writings of the prophets—particularly, Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel.

Rev Martha and Pastor Alison will facilitate and lead this six-week course. We will begin at 5:00 PM with a light supper and fellowship. Then we will proceed with our study from 5:30 to 6:30 PM.

Please RSVP to Brittany, (301) 777-3700, or firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com by September 28th.

Books will be provided and can be picked up in the church office beginning October 5th, or at our first class. A sign-up sheet to volunteer to provide a meal during one of the classes will also be available on October 9th.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERINGS: The arrival of the Fall season also marks the time for The Peace and Global Witness Offering. This offering draws Presbyterians together. It provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do peacemaking well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict and helps us to provide nurturing reconciliation and to stand in support of our global sisters and brothers because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere.



A gift to this Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering locally. Our portion of the monies collected will go to help support a program here in Cumberland, to be determined and announced after prayerful discussion. Our Baltimore Presbytery retains an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, here and abroad through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

Please consider giving generously to this Offering on World Communion Sunday, October 5, 2025. Write your check to First Presbyterian Church, and in the memo line, note Special Offering.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY: The Worship and Music Committee will be setting the communion table on October 5th for World Communion Sunday complete with breads of the world set on cloth from around the globe.

Please look through your linen closets and cedar chests for fabrics you have collected from other countries and lend them to us for that day. We will layer the communion table with them. Plexiglass will protect them from spills and crumbs. Label your fabric with your name so we can be sure to return them to you the following week.

If you have any interesting baskets that we can use to hold various breads please lend them to us for a few days and again label them with your name. Please drop off your fabrics and baskets in the volunteer office by Thursday, October 2nd. Thank you.