Welcome visitors, newcomers, and friends worshipping with us today! If you're interested in joining our church community, please speak to a pastor after worship or contact the church office, 434-293-3133. We hope you will worship with us again, whenever possible.

Preparing to Hear God’s Word

Prelude  
Ricercare  
Johann Jakob Froberger

Welcome

Call to Worship

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.  
I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.  
I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word.  
Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances.  
I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.  
The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.  
Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.  
I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.  
Let us worship God!

Hymn 611  
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee  
HYMN TO JOY

Call to Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But, if we confess our sin, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness. In humility and faith, let us confess our sins before God as we pray together.

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we know that we frequently are not the fertile recipients of your word, nor are we faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Help us be faithful and true. When we are confused, guide us with new understanding. When we are distracted by the cares of the world, focus us with your Holy Spirit. When we are worried that there won’t be enough, comfort us with your blessed assurance. Grant us the gift of generosity in all that we say and do. Scatter your seeds among us and send us out to love the world in your loving grace.

Silent Prayers
Sung Response

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The past is left behind; everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sung Response

All glory be to God on high, and peace on earth from heaven,
And God’s good will unfailingly be to all people given.
We bless, we worship You, we raise
For Your great glory thanks and praise,
O God, the great Creator.

God’s Word to Us

A Time with Children and Youth

Anthem
Peace
Shaker song, arr. Kevin Siegfried

Quartet: Dana Patek, Erika Herz, Steve Patek, Winston Barham

Peace unto Zion. Peace to the faithful, and a crown of rejoicing from your heavenly Sovereign. When Zion shall be cleansed she shall flourish as a rose.
I will walk in her midst and will bless all those with a tenfold blessing.
And their sorrows shall cease, for I’ll cry upon her walls.

Sung Prayer for Illumination

Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

First Reading

Genesis 25:19-34
OT p. 20
Dick Haines

Second Reading

Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23
NT p. 13

Sermon

The Parable of the Sower
Jewell-Ann Parton

Responding to God’s Word

Hymn 36
For the Fruit of All Creation
AR HYD Y NOS

Prayers of the Congregation 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.

The Offering

Offertory \textit{His Voice as the Sound} \\
arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

His voice as the sound of the dulcimer sweet, 
Is heard through the shadows of death; 
The cedars of Lebanon bow at his feet, 
The air is perfumed with his breath. 
His lips as a fountain of righteousness flow 
That waters the garden of grace, 
From which their salvation the Gentiles shall know, 
And bask in the smile of his face.

Love sits in his eyelids and scatters delight 
Through all the bright regions on high. 
Their faces the Cherubim veil in his sight, 
And tremble with fulness of joy. 
He looks, and ten thousands of angels rejoice, 
And myriads wait for his word, 
He speaks, and eternity filled his voice, 
Reechoes the praise of the Lord.

\begin{itemize}
\item Presentation of the Offering
\item \textit{Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;}
\item \textit{Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!}
\item \textit{Praise God, the source of all our gifts!}
\item \textit{Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!}
\item \textit{Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!}
\end{itemize}

\begin{itemize}
\item Prayer of Dedication
\item \textit{God of all the world’s gardens, bless these gifts that we now return to you. May they become seeds of hope that bear the fruit of your love in the ministries we share. Amen.}
\end{itemize}

Installation of Betsy Bloom as Elder, Class of 2026

Sentences of Scripture

Statement on Ordination

Profession of Faith and the Apostles’ Creed

Constitutional Questions

Prayer of Installation

Declaration of Installation
What’s Happening

at Westminster

Sunday, July 16
10 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Bagel Brunch for Families with Children at the Playground
11:30 a.m. Deacons Meeting in the Upper Lounge

Monday, July 17
6:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Courtyard (weather permitting)

Wednesday, July 19
7 p.m. 20/30/40 CreW Wednesday Wind-Down (off site)

Saturday, July 22
9:30 a.m. Westminster Walkers (off site)

Sunday, July 23
10 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. PACEM Interest Meeting in the Library

Music Week July 24-28
5:30-8 p.m. It’s Cool in the Furnace Events beginning in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday July 29
10 a.m.-noon It’s Cool in the Furnace Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

Sunday, July 30
10 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary including It’s Cool in the Furnace
1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
3 Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.

Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J. C. F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's Ninth Symphony. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.
1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
2 In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.
3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are
In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and de-
For the wonders that astounded us, for the truths that still con-

sleeping, future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.
sharing, in the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.
found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1970, alt.
MUSIC: Welsh melody, c. 1784
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company
THANKSGIVING

661 Why Should I Feel Discouraged?

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

1 Why should I feel dis-cour-aged? Why should the shad-ows come?
2 "Let not your heart be trou-bled," his ten-der word I hear,
3 When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er clouds a-rise,

A7 Dm G7 C

Why should my heart be lone-ly and long for heaven and home,
and rest-ing on his good-ness, I lose my doubts and fears;
when song gives place to sigh-ing, when hope with-in me dies,

C G7 C C#dim7 G7 C

when Je-sus is my por- tion? My con-stant friend is he:
though by the path he lead-eth but one step I may see:
I draw the clos-er to him; from care he sets me free:

G G7 C C G7 C

his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me;

C7 F Fm C G7 C

his eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

Refrain G7 C G7 C

I sing be-cause I'm hap-py, (I'm hap-py) I sing be-cause I'm free, (I'm free)

This hymn based on Jesus' saying about God's care for all creatures (Matthew 10:29-30/Luke 12:6-7) began with the refrain's last line, inspired by a woman who had endured much illness. It was first sung in public at the Royal Albert Hall, London, during evangelistic services in 1905.

TEXT: Civilla Durfee Martin, 1905
MUSIC: Charles H. Gabriel, 1905
for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.