



The mission of GPPC is to embody God's love
by cultivating community, practicing hope, repairing harm, and doing justice as Jesus did.

September 8, 2024

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

11:00am

+ indicates you are invited to stand
Bold print indicates congregation in unison

We are grateful to be gathered here in the Almond Creek-James River watershed, which we share with a diversity of plants and creatures, including the shortleaf pine, mountain laurel, American bullfrog, barn owl, and groundhog.

We acknowledge that this land is the traditional territory of the Powhatan Confederacy. May we nurture our relationship with all our neighbors, and our shared responsibilities to this watershed where we gather today.

GATHERING

The act of assembling in Jesus' name bears witness to the Church's identity and mission as Christ's body in the world.
Gather your thoughts and feelings. Entrust yourself to God's saving grace.

Prelude

Air from Suite for Organ

Florence Price

Greeting and Announcements

Introit

Doug Brown

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the God of all consolation,
who consoles us, so that we may be able to console. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

+ Call to Worship

One: The God of heaven has made a home on earth;

All: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

One: The highest in all creation lives among the least;

All: Christ journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

One: Come now, all who thirst

All: and drink the water of life.

One: Come now, all who hunger

All: and be filled with good things.

One: Come now, all who seek.

All: and be warmed by the fire of love.

+ Hymn 645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Prayer of Confession

[by Billie Bell]

Kenyan traditional

Leader: All:

Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort and joy. — joy.

1.(lis - ten) 2.

Christ Almighty, get out your special Scotch Tape!

**Fix broken fingernails, link broken lines, bind broken bodies, seal broken spirits, miter broken marriages,
tighten broken treaties, weld all this broken world.**

This also: forgive our fractures, and make fast our faith.

Silent prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

+ Gloria (Hymn 582) *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

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.

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.

WORD

Where the scriptures are read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ, the living Word, is present by the power of the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit also evokes our response. Through singing, affirmation, and prayer, with the help of God's Spirit, we discern Jesus Christ, receive Christ's grace, and resolve to follow Christ's way.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

2 Corinthians 1:1-11 (CEB)

From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will, and Timothy our brother.

To God's church that is in Corinth, along with all of God's people throughout Achaia.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed – the compassionate Father and God of all comfort. God is the one who comforts us in all our trouble so that we can comfort other people who are in every kind of trouble. We offer the same comfort that we ourselves received from God. That is because we receive so much comfort through Christ in the same way that we share so many of Christ's sufferings. So if we have trouble, it is to bring you comfort and salvation. If we are comforted, it is to bring you comfort from the experience of endurance while you go through the same sufferings that we also suffer. Our hope for you is certain, because we know that as you are partners in suffering, so also you are partners in comfort.

Siblings in Christ, we don't want you to be unaware of the troubles that we went through in Asia. We were weighed down with a load of suffering that was so far beyond our strength that we were afraid we might not survive. It certainly seemed to us as if we had gotten the death penalty. This was so that we would have confidence in God, who raises the dead, instead of ourselves. God rescued us from a terrible death, and God will rescue us. We have set our hope on God that God will rescue us again, since you are helping with your prayer for us. Then many people can thank God on our behalf for the gift that was given to us through the prayers of many people.

Psalm 46: 1-5

One: God is for us a refuge and strength, a help in trouble, easily found.

Therefore we shall not fear, though the earth should change.

**All: Though the mountains quiver in the heart of the sea;
Its waters roar and churn, the mountains tremble with its swell.**

One: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

The holy habitation of the Most High.

**All: God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;
God will help her when the morning unfurls.**

John 14:25-27 (CEB)

Jesus said: "I have spoken these things to you while I am with you. The Companion, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I told you.

"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don't be troubled or afraid."

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Carla Pratt Keyes

+ Hymn 822 *When We Are Living*

+ Affirmation of Faith

[from Belonging to God: A First Catechism]

One: Who are you?

All: I am a child of God.

One: What does it mean to be a child of God?

All: That I belong to God, who loves me.

One: What makes you a child of God?

All: Grace – God's free gift of love that I do not deserve and cannot earn.

One: Don't you have to be good for God to love you?

All: No. God loves me in spite of all I do wrong.

One: How do you thank God for this gift of love?

All: I promise to love and trust God with all my heart.

One: How do you love God?

All: By worshipping God, by loving others, and by respecting what God has created.

One: What did God create?

All: God created all that is, seen and unseen.

One: What is special about human beings?

All: God made us all in the image of God.

One: What does it mean that we are made in God's image?

All: It means we are made to reflect God's goodness, wisdom and love.

One: What is the church?

**All: We are the church: the people who believe the good news about Jesus,
who are baptized, and who share in the Lord's Supper.**

Through these means of grace, the Spirit renews us so that we may serve God in love.

+ Somos Uno (Hymn 322)

We are one in Christ Jesus, all one body, all one spirit, all together.

Somos uno en Cristo, somos uno, somos uno, uno solo.

We share one God, one mighty Lord, one abiding faith, one binding love,

One single baptism, one Holy Comforter, the Holy Spirit, uniting all.

Blessing of the Backpacks and Prayers of the People

Commissioning of Seminary Intern Katie Carboni and Youth Leader Feagin Hardy

EUCCHARIST

Though we are not sharing the bread and cup today, we remember with thanksgiving (eukharistia) the grace (kharis) with which Jesus welcomes us to sit at his table, eat what will satisfy our deepest hungers, and feed others as we've been fed.

We offer ourselves in response to Christ's wonderful offering of love.

Offering



*Everyone is invited to place tithes, offerings, visitor cards,
or any other communications to the Pastor or staff
in the designated wall boxes beside each door at the back of the Sanctuary
or signal an usher to bring you the offering plate.*

*Monetary gifts and pledges to GPPC may also be given online at <https://www.ginterparkpc.org/giving>,
or by using the QR Code to the left.*

Offertory

Come, Ye Disconsolate

Samuel Webbe, arr. Terre Johnson

*Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish; come to the mercy-seat, fervently kneel;
Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish, earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.
Joy of the comfortless, light of the straying, hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure;
Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying—earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot cure.
Here see the Bread of Life; see waters flowing forth from the throne of God, pure from above;
Come to the feast of love; come, ever knowing earth has no sorrow but heaven can remove.*

Thomas Moore/Thomas Hastings

+ Doxology (Hymn 607)

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.***

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.**

SENDING

Our worship and service do not end with the postlude; we go forth to love and serve God in our daily lives.

+ Hymn 465 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

+ Charge and Blessing

+ The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

+ Postlude

Fantasy from Suite for Organ

Florence Price

ABOUT WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: GPPC's Director of Music is Doug Brown. Our liturgist is GPPC's Seminary Intern, Katie Carboni. Today's lector is Helen Roybark. Our livestream operator is Anna Creech. Owen Sharman is lead usher.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES are available in the Narthex. Please see today's greeter or an usher.

PLEASE TAKE THE PAPER BULLETIN YOU HAVE USED home for reference and/or recycling. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS about events in the life of GPPC are available through a weekly e-newsletter. If you would like to be added to the distribution, please contact Karen Mitscherlich at ginterparkpc@gmail.com.