



Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

September 22, 2024 10:30 a.m.
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship

**indicates to stand as you are able.

Prelude

O God Beyond All Praising

arr. L. Larson

Psalm 145:1: *I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.*

"O God beyond all praising, we worship You today; and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay. For we can only wonder at every gift You send, at blessings without number and mercies without end. We lift our hearts before You and wait upon Your word. We honor and adore You, our great and mighty Lord. Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring; that we who know Your favor may serve You as our king. And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless You still. To marvel at Your beauty and glory in Your ways; and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise."

(words: M. Perry, 1982; music (*Thaxted*): G. Holst, 1918)

(this piano solo: Lorenz Publishing Co., 2014)

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace (L: Leader; **P: People**)

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

****Call to Worship**

Bob Clemens

L: God's word comes to us: "I am with you."

P: In our worries as in our celebrations, always.

L: God's word comes to us: "Look up!"

P: See the stars — always present, signs of a bigger story.

L: God's word comes to us: "I promise."

All: We trust that however impossible it seems, God's word is true.

****Hymn – 401**

Here In This Place, v. 1, 2, 4

Call to Confession

Silent Prayer of Confession

Common Prayer of Confession

L: Your promise shines, O God, whether we can see it, or not.

P: We confess that while we wait, we worry...

**and so we seek our own security, taking matters into our own hands,
and confining ideas of your goodness to our own poor imaginations.**

L: We allow our own demands for comfort and stability and predictability
to dim the light and mute the colors of sparkling life in all its fullness.

P: We admit we'll settle for less-than-full life--if we can have it our way.

L: Yet you call us outside —

outside our structures and systems,

outside our understanding and tradition,

out to where we can encounter your glory and take the leap of faith.

All: Forgive us, O God,

and lift the eyes of our hearts beyond what we think we know.

May we come to trust you fully,

and so be bearers of your blessing to the world.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Friends, this is the Good News of the Gospel...

(Congregation pause to hear the Good News of the Gospel)

P: ...in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

**Response -435

There Is a Wideness in God's Mercy, v. 2

For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind.

And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving
for the goodness of our Lord.

Moment with Children

Sarah Trodden

**Please note that any children who come forward for the moment with children will likely be seen on the worship livestream on Facebook*

*Children ages preschool—third grade dismissed to Sunday Experience
Please see announcements for instructions.*

Sacrament of Baptism - insert

(this choral arrangement is from Malcolm Music/Shawnee Press, 2005)
(opening music is from the hymn *Revive Us Again*, by J. Husband and W. Mackay, 1863 and is public domain)

Prayer for Illumination

Scriptures

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:2-8

During the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. ⁴ This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

A voice crying out in the wilderness:

*"Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight.*

⁵ *Every valley will be filled,
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.*

*The crooked will be made straight
and the rough places made smooth.*

⁶ *All humanity will see God's salvation."*

⁷ Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? ⁸ Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones.

Hebrew Bible Reading: Genesis 15:1-6, CEB

15 After these events, the LORD's word came to Abram in a vision, "Don't be afraid, Abram. I am your protector. Your reward will be very great."

² But Abram said, "LORD God, what can you possibly give me, since I still have no children? The head of my household is Eliezer, a man from Damascus."^b ³ He continued, "Since you haven't given me any children, the head of my household will be my heir."

⁴ The LORD's word came immediately to him, "This man will not be your heir. Your heir will definitely be your very own biological child." ⁵ Then the LORD brought Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars--- if you think you can count them." He continued, "This is how many children you will have." ⁶ Abram trusted the LORD, and the LORD recognized Abram's high moral character

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Reckoned Righteous

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

****Hymn - 250**

In the Bulb, There is a Flower

Invitation to Offering

There are numerous ways to give to the work of CMPC. Offering plates will be passed through the pews during the offertory for checks or cash to be left today. Cards with a QR code that will direct you to our online giving page are located in the pew racks. Donations can always be mailed to the church at any time using the address on the back page of the bulletin. Thank you for your support!

Offertory

How Can I Keep from Singing with Praise Him, Praise Him

arr. V. Labenske

Psalm 147:1: *Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.*

"There is an endless song echoes in my soul, I hear the music ring. And though the storms may come, I am holding on, to the rock I cling. How can I keep from singing Your praise? How can I ever say enough, how amazing is Your love. How can I keep from shouting Your name? I know I am loved by the King, and it makes my heart want to sing." (words and music by C. Tomlin/E. Cash/M. Redman, 2006)
(SixSteps Music/ThankYou Music/Vamos Publishing, admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

"Praise him, praise him! Jesus, our blessed redeemer! Sing, O earth, his wonderful love proclaim!
Hail him, hail him! Highest archangels in glory! Strength and honor give to his holy name!
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard his children. In his arms he carries them all day long. Praise him!
Praise him! Tell of his excellent greatness. Praise him! Praise him! Ever in joyful song."
(words: F. Crosby, 1869; music (*Joyful Song*): C. Allen, 1869; words and music are public domain)

(this piano solo: ThankYou Music, WorshipTogether.com Songs/Six Steps Music, admin. by Music Services, Inc. 2006)

****Doxology - 711**

Lord of All Good, v. 1

Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to you;
use them your holy purpose to fulfill,
tokens of love and pledges brought anew,
that our whole life is offered to your will.

****Prayer of Dedication**

Prayer of Thanksgiving, with the Lord's Prayer

****Hymn -49**

The God of Abraham Praise

****Benediction**

Postlude

Fanfare

by Gordon Young

2 Corinthians 13:14: *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

(this organ solo: Harold Flammer Music, 1962)

Thank you to Neil Danzig and Kofi Akuoko for providing audio support this week!

Thank you to Kevin Wilson for operating the sanctuary cameras this week!

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Announcements and Upcoming Events

LOGOS 2024-2025

We are so excited to start another year of LOGOS here at CMPC! Here are some important dates to put on your calendar:

Now! - Registration is live now!

September 22nd - Registration closes.

October 2nd - FIRST NIGHT of LOGOS

Volunteers Needed: Whether you have a family member (child or grandchild) participating in LOGOS or not we LOVE our volunteers! If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering please contact our CMPC LOGOS directors, Ryan and Elyn Thomas (logos@cmpcusa.org)

Youth Registration Link



Volunteer Registration Link



Attention all parents of college age students

The Care & Wellness Committee likes to keep in touch with our college age students by sending them a Halloween card with a gift enclosed. If you have a student in community college, college, university, grade school, or trade school, even if they are living at home, please send their name and current address to Kris Bloom. kcbloom@verizon.net by Sunday, October 19th. We hope to reach out to all our students. Thank you!

Adult Bible Studies

Bible Basics

Will not meet on September 24th.

Adult Zoom Bible Study

Will not meet on September 23rd

Monday Morning Women's Bible Study

Come join the women's Bible Study. The Bible Study Group meets from September to May on the second and fourth Monday of each month from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Trinity Room of CMPC. Members engage in prayer time, Bible study, fellowship, and mission projects. All women of the church and community are welcome.

For more information you may call or email:

Miriam Miller at 410-302-9651 or jtmillerj@verizon.net or

Barbara Petro at 410-300-6279 or bapetro@aol.com

New Security

Following a discussion with the Membership & Hospitality Committee regarding security measures, the Session will implement a new security procedure beginning Sunday, October 6: The lower level parking lot doors will be secured at 10:45 on Sunday mornings. Those arriving for worship after that time will use the Shaker Drive entrance to the church.

Thank you ~ The Session of CMPC

Mission Committee Sponsored Workday

The Mission Committee is sponsoring a workday at A Home Of Our Own Howard (HOOO)



Help is needed with dusting/cleaning, sorting, organizing and counting inventory. The planned workday is Thursday October 10, 2024. We will work from 10:00-12:00 in the morning and/or 2-4 pm. You choose which shift or both shifts. The point of contact is BJ Walworth, bjwalworth@hotmail.com, 410.300.0242.

Please email bjwalworth@hotmail.com by Sunday October 7, 2024 if you want to participate in the workday. or if you have any questions.

If anyone wants to volunteer for a different day, please send an email to info@homeofourownhoward.org.

To Ring or Not to Ring?

CMPC's handbell choir, the "Bells of Joy", have enhanced our worship services for 20+ years with their rich and unique musical offerings. Over the past couple of years the group has lost several members and is currently in need of some new ringers if the choir is to continue. If you are able to read music (bass and treble clef), high school or adult, you can easily learn how to ring a handbell. We would love to show you how! We know there are many members in our congregation with music backgrounds. We hope you will prayerfully consider joining the choir so we can continue this great church tradition. For more information contact Sally Berlowitz (Handbell Director) at sberlowitz@verizon.net or 410-913-2144. "To ring or not to ring?", that is the question. We hope you'll answer YES to giving it a try!

Join Trinity Choir

Trinity Choir would love to have more voices. Rehearsals are on Thursday evening at 7:30 pm. For more information, contact Music Director, Joy Exner, at joyousmusic@yahoo.com.

From Choral Singing in America, 2023

To The Outside, It's a Choral Rehearsal. On the inside, it's a stress reliever, a sense of belonging, a mood changer, confidence booster, a place you are accepted, a creative outlet, an extended family, a support system, a challenge, a place to discover your best self, and an opportunity to change people's lives through music.

Work of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has begun its work of discerning which members of CMPC God is calling to serve as Elders and Deacons, starting January 2025 for 3 year terms. Perhaps it is you! Now and in the weeks ahead, the committee will be reaching out to members asking them (you) to consider service on the session or diaconate. Please prayerfully consider if this is something to which you feel called or if there is someone you think God might be preparing to serve. These are exciting times at CMPC and we need willing and faithful leaders to guide us in and through them. Thank you in advance for prayerfully and seriously considering the call to serve. If not you, then who! If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact the Nominating Committee chair Judy Brown at jbrown10632@gmail.com.

Fifth Sunday Offering

The Fifth Sunday Offering on September 29 will be designated for Columbia Community Cares which began in March 2020 in response to the growing and dire food needs of vulnerable households affected by the COVID-19 crisis. CCC has created a practical way for members of our community to help fellow residents, especially children, in this time of higher food costs and financial strains on the household economy. CCC collects and donates non-perishable food, fresh fruit and vegetables, personal care and baby items, and essential household supplies at three drive-through locations. The need for their services continues to grow, which is why they have been selected to receive the 5th Sunday Offering. Thank you for your compassion and generosity. The Mission and Local Outreach Committee will match funds received.

The Sacrament of Baptism

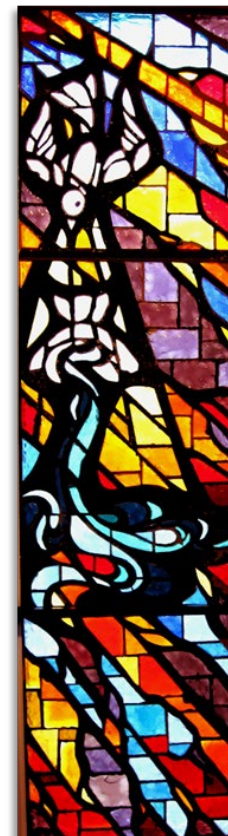
Since water was such a precious and scarce commodity in the Middle East, it is easy to see how frequently it became a symbol of life, death, and hope for many religious ceremonies. Such was the case for Christians.

Baptism can be performed by immersing a person in water, or by pouring or sprinkling water on one's head. It can be done in a stream or pool, or by using a bowl or a font. More and more, throughout the ecumenical Christian world baptism is mutually honored no matter what the method.

The method may vary but the symbolism remains the same; it is by the grace of Jesus Christ that our sins are forgiven (washed away); and, as the apostle Paul says, "If we have been buried (immersed) with Christ in a death like his, we will certainly be raised (lifted) in a resurrection like his." Baptism reminds us that we can have a living relationship with Christ, by which we can become "new creatures" in Him (reborn spiritually). All those who are baptized are welcomed into "the house- hold of God" (the church).

From the moment of our birth, sin (rebellion against and separation from God) is part of our nature. While the physical act of baptism, in and of itself, does not cleanse, it is a firm reminder that God's grace in Jesus Christ is able to conquer sin and redeem and cleanse our sinful nature. Therefore, it is never too early to baptize our children and to claim by the vows taken by their parents the promise that God can and does cleanse us, save us, and make us new. In adolescence, we invite young people to confirm the vow taken by their parents and to pledge their full participation in the community of faith.

As those who ourselves have been baptized in the name of the God who created us, Jesus who redeemed us, and the Spirit who sustains us, we join together in welcoming, by their baptisms, Fern and Field McGarity into the life and ministry of the Risen Christ.



The Sacrament of Baptism

Fern Acadia McGarity
Field Micajah McGarity
September 22, 2024



10600 Shaker Drive, Columbia, MD 21046

Words of Presentation *Pastor Janna and Elder Allison Miller*

Presentation of Fern and Field McGarity for Baptism

Question to the Children *Forrest McGarity*

Today we celebrate that Fern and Field are becoming part of our church family. We are all God's children. These questions are for us, the children of Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church. When we say "We will", we make a promise to God, and to Fern and to Field.

Will we help Fern and Field remember that God loves them, and we love them? **We will.**

Will we share the stories of Jesus with them, as we grow together, play together, and worship together? **We will.**

Question to the Congregation

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Fern and Field by word and action, with love and prayer? *Congregation: **We do.***

Will you encourage them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church? *Congregation: **We will.***

Profession of Faith

Questions to the Parents

****Affirmation of Faith** *Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

****Hymn: #486, *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise, v.1,4***

Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Water

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

...for we pray through Christ who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever, Amen.

The Baptism

Words of Charge and Welcome

***Those who are comfortably able may stand.*

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them.

But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them,

"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them;

For it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the

Kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

And Jesus took them up in his arms,

Laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

- Mark 10: 13-16

Here in This Place

401

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and




blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,




we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

486 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise



1 Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized
 2 Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -
 3 Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you
 4 Child of God, your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to



with the Spir - it's sign, with this wa - ter God has
 a - tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from God, re - fresh our
 are, from God you came. Back to God we hum - bly
 lis - ten for God's call. Grow to laugh and sing and



sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
 spir - its; in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
 give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.
 wor - ship; trust and love God more than all.

This hymn addressed to a newly-baptized child begins each stanza with a facet of the child's identity, culminating in "child of God." By being directed to one person rather than the whole congregation, this text occupies a special category among the "songs of encouragement."

In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) (Em)
F Gm




1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) (D)
C7 F




in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)
F7 B^b Gm F Dm Gm A Dm



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
B^b Gm F Dm Gm C7 F



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."
Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

49 The God of Abraham Praise



1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,
 2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
 3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
 4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;



the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
 In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
 Es - tab - lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:



we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
 the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!



Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.