



CHRIST MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 28, 2025

GATHERING

Prelude

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Composer Tom Hastings

Publisher 1980 Fred Brock Music Company

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Janna VanderWoude

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

**Call to Worship

Liturgist Laura Frantz

One: God sees us as we are:

All: God knows all our struggle, and our success.

One: But sometimes we want to ask God: are you paying attention?

All: And God asks us, too: are we paying attention?

One: We are here to listen as God calls us by name,

All: We are here to learn to answer as God does: Here I am.

**Gathering Hymn – 405

Praise God for this Holy Ground

Call to Confession

Common Prayer of Confession

L: God of creation, who was and is and will be...we gather today partly because it's just what we do.

**All: But we also hope that something today will catch our attention,
that out of the corner of our eye we will get a glimpse of you,
that your Spirit will make us able to turn, and truly see.**

**When you show yourself to us, Lord,
we confess we'll have plenty of explanations
why we can't be seeing what we're seeing or hearing what we're hearing.
We admit we will have plenty of excuses why we can't do what you're asking.**

L: When you reveal yourself today —
for you have promised to be among us whenever we gather — make us ready to perceive.

**All: Forgive us our conflicted hearts,
Forgive us our confused minds,
Forgive our desires that pull us one way and another...
Show us who you have really made us to be.
Overwhelm us with your presence, O God.
Make us confident in your attention to our lives and our prayers,
Empower us to speak words of hope and justice, and to walk in your way.
We ask in the name of the One who walked among us,
bringing the kingdom of heaven to earth, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

L: Hear the Good News: Whatever the reason you might imagine God can't accept you, can't use you, can't love you, God overrules every objection with the truth: I have called you by name. I will be with you. I will give you everything you need to fulfill my purpose for you.

P: Trusting in God's forgiveness, we go forward into new life. Thanks be to God!

****Response -581**

Glory Be to the Father

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

Time for All God's Children

Sarah Trodden

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist Laura Frantz

Gospel Text

John 8:52-58

Liturgist Laura Frantz

Hebrew Bible Text

Exodus 2:23-25, 3:1-15, 4:10-17

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

Sermon

After the Fire

Hymn of Response-451

Open My Eyes, that I May See

Recognition and Thanksgiving for Service

Grassroots Crisis Intervention, along with the Mission Committee and the Session, offer their thanks to Christ Memorial Presbyterian for their involvement and support, and offer special recognition to the following members: Jane Wall, Todd Stubbs and Suzy Crabb.

Prayers of the People (ending with the Lord's Prayer, p.35 in Hymnal)

EUCHARIST—OUR GRATITUDE AND TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISES

Invitation to the Offering

Deacon/Liturgist Laura Frantz

Offertory

O God our Help in Ages Past

Roger Wilson

Publisher 1962 Lorenz Publishing

We invite you to use the time of the Offertory to reflect and to pray silently, offering thanks for God's goodness, and commitment of ourselves for declaring that the God who creates also re-creates. making all things new.

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!

****Doxology-710**, without bridge

We Lift our Voice (We are an Offering)

We lift our voices, we lift our hands
We lift our lives up to you, we are an offering
Lord, use our voices, Lord use our hands
Lord, use our lives, they are yours, we are an offering:
We are an offering.

****Prayer of Dedication and Discipleship**

Deacon/Liturgist Laura Frantz

SENDING

****Sending Song- 69**

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am)

Blessing and Charge

Postlude

Recessional in G Major

John Stanley

Publisher 1952 Concordia Publishing House

Art Attribution

Moses and the Burning Bush, ca. 1960

William Kurelek

TEXTS FOR THE WEEK

Exodus 2:23-25, CEB

²³ A long time passed, and the Egyptian king died. The Israelites were still groaning because of their hard work. They cried out, and their cry to be rescued from the hard work rose up to God. ²⁴ God heard their cry of grief, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ²⁵ God looked at the Israelites, and God understood.

Exodus 3:1-15, CEB

Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro,^[a] Midian's priest. He led his flock out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called Horeb. ² The LORD's messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn't burn up. ³ Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up.

⁴ When the LORD saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" Moses said, "I'm here."

⁵ Then the LORD said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground." ⁶ He continued, "I am the God of your father, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the LORD said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. ⁸ I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. ⁹ Now the Israelites' cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. ¹⁰ So get going. I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

¹² God said, "I'll be with you. And this will show you that I'm the one who sent you. After you bring the people out of Egypt, you will come back here and worship God on this mountain."

¹³ But Moses said to God, "If I now come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they are going to ask me, 'What's this God's name?' What am I supposed to say to them?"

¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. So say to the Israelites, 'I Am has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God continued, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how all generations will remember me."

John 8:52-58

⁵² The Jewish opposition said to Jesus, "Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham and the prophets died, yet you say, 'Whoever keeps my word will never die.' ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died and the prophets died, so who do you make yourself out to be?"

⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is meaningless. My Father, who you say is your God, is the one who glorifies me. ⁵⁵ You don't know him, but I do. If I said I didn't know him, I would be like you, a liar. But I do know him, and I keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham was overjoyed that he would see my day. He saw it and was happy."

⁵⁷ "You aren't even 50 years old!" the Jewish opposition replied. "How can you say that you have seen Abraham?"

⁵⁸ "I assure you," Jesus replied, "before Abraham was, I Am."

Exodus 4:10-17

¹⁰ But Moses said to the LORD, "My Lord, I've never been able to speak well, not yesterday, not the day before, and certainly not now since you've been talking to your servant. I have a slow mouth and a thick tongue.

¹¹ Then the LORD said to him, "Who gives people the ability to speak? Who's responsible for making them unable to speak or hard of hearing, sighted or blind? Isn't it I, the LORD? ¹² Now go! I'll help you speak, and I'll teach you what you should say."

¹³ But Moses said, "Please, my Lord, just send someone else."

¹⁴ Then the LORD got angry at Moses and said, "What about your brother Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak very well. He's on his way out to meet you now, and he's looking forward to seeing you. ¹⁵ Speak to him and tell him what he's supposed to say. I'll help both of you speak, and I'll teach both of you what to do. ¹⁶ Aaron will speak for you to the people. He'll be a spokesperson for you, and you will be like God for him. ¹⁷ Take this shepherd's rod with you too so that you can do the signs."

WONDERING QUESTIONS:

- Have you ever seen something you couldn't explain with words? What was it? What did you think about it?
- In the story, God tells Moses that God is with people who are hurting or treated unfairly. What are some ways we can help others know this about God?
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Thank you to Neil Danzig for providing audio support this week!

Thank you to for operating the sanctuary cameras this week!

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Announcements and Upcoming Events

From 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 2026 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.

The Monday Morning Women's Bible Study Group

Come join the Bible Study women in the study of Liz Curtis Higgs's book, *Bad Girls of the Bible And What We Can Learn From Them*. The group meets from September to May on the second and fourth Monday of each month from 9:45-11:30 a.m. in the Trinity Room of CMPC.

Members engage in prayer time, Bible study, fellowship, and mission projects. All women of the church, community, and beyond are welcome to meet with the group.

For more information, please contact Barbara Petro at 410-300-6279 bapetro@aol.com or Miriam Miller at 410-531-6528, jtmillerj@verizon.net

Two Bible Study opportunities for adult men and women:

1. Zoom Bible Study at 7:30 pm the last two Mondays of the month. Current topic is "Four Loves". Contact Kathy Koch for the Zoom link. KathrynAKoch@hotmail.com.
2. Adult Bible Reading Class on Tuesdays at 11 am in classroom 3. This class reads Bible passages aloud and discusses them. "What do you see? What do you wonder? Why does it matter?" The class includes men, women, and couples. All are welcome.

Minute for Mission

Today, Grassroots honors CMPC's participation in the Cold Weather Shelter. Staff from Grassroots will present past coordinators of CWS from CMPC with a plaque to recognize the congregation's faithful support over the course of more than twenty years of service. CWS has benefitted hundreds of homeless individuals and families in Howard County. This would not have been possible without the mobilization of dozens of CMPC volunteers, which has made this truly an all-church hands-on mission to help the less fortunate among us, as Christ calls us to do.

Memorial Garden

We currently have \$10,000 in the memorial fund but need an additional \$17,000 to complete the project **(\$6600 has already been raised!)**. While this is a significant amount, we believe that together our church family can make it possible. If 150 people/families donate \$150.00 that = Success! We would not only reach our goal but also provide extra funds for ongoing care of the garden. Of course, gifts of any size are greatly appreciated. Here are three ways to give:

1. Monetary Donation

- a. Visit the church homepage, scroll down to "Online Giving," select "Memorial Garden Contribution" from the drop down menu, and follow the prompts. OR
- b. Write a check payable to Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church with "Memorial Garden Fund" in the memo section.

2. Memorial Brick - Cost \$150.00

- a. Complete attached memorial brick form and place in offering plate. Please note on the form if you paid online or by check. If ordering more than one, use one order form per brick.
- b. To pay online, go to church homepage. Scroll down to "Online Giving", select "Memorial Garden Gift Brick" and follow the prompts. OR
- c. To pay by check, make payable to Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church and remember to include "Memorial Garden Brick" in the memo section. Attach check to order form.

3. Combined Contribution

- a. You can make a contribution and purchase a memorial brick!

We hope you share our excitement for this project! A sample of the brick and a rendition of the garden will be on display in the church lobby. The rendition showcases the garden's design, it does not include all of the planned plants. Alexis and Shelley will be available to answer questions. Together, let's create a space of lasting beauty and remembrance!

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Praise God for This Holy Ground 405

Capo 2: (D)

(G)

(A)

(Bm)

E

A

B

C#m



1 Praise God for this ho - ly ground,
 2 Praise God in whose word we find
 3 Praise God who through Christ makes known
 4 Praise God's Spir - it who be - friends,
 5 Though praise ends, praise is be - gun

(Em7)

(D/F#)

(Em7)

(Asus4) (A)

F#m7

E/G#

F#m7

Bsus4 B



place and peo - ple, sight and sound.
 food for bod - y, soul, and mind.
 all are loved and called God's own.
 rais - es, hum - bles, breaks, and mends.
 where God's will is glad - ly done.

Refrain

(D)

(G)

(Em7)

(A)

(F#7)

(Bm)

E

A

F#m7

B

G#7

C#m



Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

(D)

(Em7)

(A7)

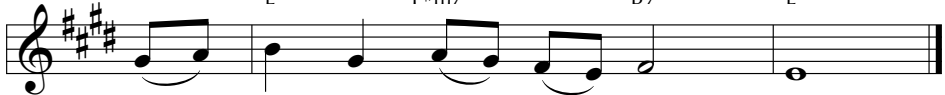
(D)

E

F#m7

B7

E



God's good - ness is e - ter - nal.

Although several passages in the Psalms come close to the wording of this refrain, none matches it exactly. The refrain serves as a summation of the stanzas, each of which is filled with multiple instances of God's providential mercy, and all of them are worth pondering.

Open My Eyes, That I May See 451



- 1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
 2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic-es of truth thou send-est clear.
 3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un-clasp and
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev-ery-thing false will
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 dis-ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy



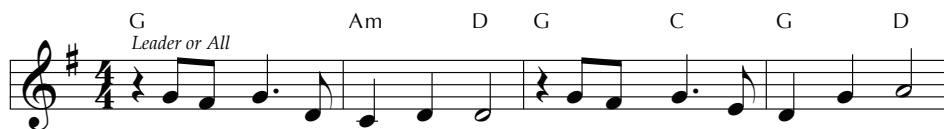
will to see. O-pen my eyes; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!
 will to see. O-pen my ears; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!
 will to see. O-pen my heart; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!



The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

69 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord



1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est



made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

The stanzas here need to be understood as representing the voice of God, while the refrain (based on Isaiah 6:8) is the faithful human response to God's call. This becomes clearer if a leader or small group sings the stanzas, with the congregation joining on the refrain.