



Old Presbyterian Meeting House

SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 19, 2021

PRELUDE

“Sweet Hour of Prayer” with “As the Deer”

arr. Susan Caudill
(b. 1952)

WELCOME

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us worship God!

Rev. Katherine A. Stanford

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP

God embraces us with mercy and love, calling us to life and faith.

We are a new people in God's love.

God invites us out of sin and darkness, and into the light.

We are a new people in God's love.

God tears down the old divisions between us and joins us together in faith.

We are a new people in God's love.

God is our peace; we have nothing to fear.

We are a new people in God's love.

God welcomes us and blesses us with grace.

Let us sing praise to the Lord, our God!

▲ HYMN OF PRAISE 394

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dr. Robert R. Laha

Holy God, you call us to imitate your Son, Jesus Christ. You call us to speak truth to one another, but we are afraid to do so. You call us to oppose injustice, but we are afraid to do so. You call us to encourage each other, but instead we speak ill of our sisters and brothers. You call us to forgive one another, but we remain bitter and resentful. How we must grieve your Spirit, O God. Forgive us again, we pray. Point us again to Christ. Empower us again with the Spirit so that, with your help, we might live more like Jesus. Hear now the prayers we bring to you in silence...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

▲ ACT OF PRAISE 612, V. 3

We Praise You, O God

KREMSER

**With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!**

ANTHEM

“The Call” from *Five Mystical Songs*
Text by George Herbert (1593-1633)
Will Heim, baritone solo

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)
arr. Steven Seigart
(b. 1990)

GOD'S WORD TO US

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 4:1-16

TIME WITH CHILDREN

**May God be with you there.
May God be with us here.
May God be with everyone, everywhere. Amen.**

Mrs. Noelle Castin

▲ HYMN 317

In Christ There Is No East or West

MC KEE

SERMON

The Marks of Community

Dr. Robert R. Laha

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from *A Declaration of Faith*, 1967

We acknowledge that God is at work here and now when people show personal concern for each other and work to make helping agencies, including the church itself, more compassionate.

We believe God sends us to risk our own peace and comfort in compassion for our neighbors. We are to give to them and receive from them, accepting everyone we meet as a person; to be sensitive to those who suffer in body or mind; to help and accept help in ways the affirm dignity and responsibility.

We must not limit our compassion to those we judge deserving, for we ourselves do not deserve the compassion of God.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Mr. John Beerbower

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Katherine A. Stanford

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.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

▲ DOXOLOGY 607

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

▲ HYMN 754

Help Us Accept Each Other

BARONITA

▲ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Dr. Robert R. Laha

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE 765

May the God of Hope Go With Us

ARGENTINA

▲ POSTLUDE

Fanfare and Pageant of Praise

Donald Wyrzte
(b. 1942)

MUSICAL NOTES

Today we welcome guest organist Michele Bair to the loft. Michele retired from her 26-year position with Church of the Good Shepherd UMC in Vienna, VA as Music Director in 2019. Since then, she joined Scouts BSA with her daughter and advises Troop 1983G in Oakton, VA as Scoutmaster of 16 girls. For today's music, we'll have a popular anthem by Welsh composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, "The Call," known to many in its adapted hymn form in many protestant hymnals. Though the original version of this, from Vaughan Williams's Five Mystical Songs (of which four are texts by metaphysical poet George Herbert) is for solo baritone, today's arrangement is for that solo along with a four-part choir. As in most of his music, the emphasis is on the melody, hauntingly beautiful in this case, with a chant-like rhythm that simply supports the melody's arc without any regular meter. The experience of listening to Vaughan Williams' music was put best by critic Samuel Langford: "Throughout its course one is never sure whether one is listening to something very old or very new."

Today's flowers were arranged by Judi Elmore.

The flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in celebration of Dennis and Barbara Johnson's wedding anniversary, by Eric Johnson, Laura Campbell, and Sam

A full worship service livestream at 11 a.m. is available at opmh.org/livestream and, thereafter, recordings of services are available at vimeo.com/opmh.

Image from <https://novusmotusoxoniensis.com/?s=25th+Sunday+of+Year+B%2C+>

All are invited to join us in the churchyard for our Lemonade on the Lawn fellowship time following worship today.

Coming Up ...

- September/October Sundays:
 - 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m, Outdoor childcare for infants and toddlers on the playground (weather permitting).
 - 9:30-10:30 a.m., Multi-age Sunday School (weather permitting) in the churchyard
- September 23 (and every Thursday), 10 a.m. via Zoom: Bible Study "Looking into the Lectionary"
- October 3, 9:30 a.m.: Inquirers' Class, Fellowship Hall
- November 5-7: Church Retreat at Massanetta Springs, information and registration at opmh.org/2021retreat

For a complete listing of weekly and upcoming events, please visit opmh.org.

Our Capital Campaign

With over \$4.5 million in pledges, we continue to make great progress toward meeting our stated goal. If, by the end, everyone makes a pledge we can achieve the needed amount to support our facilities, programs, and missions. Thanks to those of you who have responded. We look forward to hearing from everyone, who by now should have received the campaign information brochure. Contact Aaron at the office (703 549-6670) or by email (aaron@opmh.org) if you did not receive one. And if you'd rather, go to the webpage (opmh.org/capital) to see how you can make your pledge.

WAYS TO GIVE

1. Leave your offering in the offering plates by the doors as you exit the sanctuary.
2. Give online at opmh.org/give or snap the QR code at right.
3. Text **opmh** to 73256
4. Mail a check to 323 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria, VA 22314.



Old Presbyterian Meeting House
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