



# Old Presbyterian Meeting House

## SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 10, 2021

### PRELUDE

Siciliana  
*played on the Erben organ*

Antonio Pampani  
(c. 1705-1775)

### WELCOME

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

Rev. Katherine A. Stanford

## PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

### CALL TO WORSHIP

O Lord, satisfy us with your steadfast love,  
**so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

Let the favor of the Lord be upon us,  
**and prosper the work of our hands.**

Let us worship the Lord, our God!

## ▲ HYMN 386

Come, Worship God

O QUANTA QUALIA

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dr. Robert R. Laha

O Lord, you are the source of justice and righteousness, the one who hears the cries of the suffering and who fills the hunger of the poor. Forgive us when we fail to reflect your just love: when we have food and food leftover, yet we do not share with any in need; when we have power for good and power for change, yet use it only for our own self-preservation; when we have your words before us, yet we cover our ears lest they make us uncomfortable. Forgive us and teach us to follow in your way. 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!

## GOD'S WORD TO US

### TIME WITH CHILDREN

May God be with you there.

Mrs. Noelle Castin

May God be with us here.

May God be with everyone, everywhere. Amen.

### ANTHEM

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing  
text by Robert Robinson (1735-1790)

Anonymous  
arr. Robert Hebble (1934-2020)

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 10:17-31

### ▲ HYMN 450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

### SERMON

A Hard Lesson

Dr. Robert R. Laha

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

### ▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Declaration of Faith*, 1967

We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship. Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ is God's undeserved gift to each of us. It is also God's demand upon every one of us. Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters, we strive to become more faithful and effective in our daily practice of the Christian life.

Christ teaches us to go beyond the legal requirements in serving and helping our neighbor, to treat our neighbor's needs as our own, to care passionately for the other's good, to share what we have. It is part of our discipline to live in simplicity, avoiding greed and luxury that threaten our neighbor's survival. We are obligated to speak the truth in love, to listen with patience and openness, to love our enemies, and to accept the risk and pain which love involves.

## INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Katherine A. Stanford

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

## PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY

Lead Me, Lord  
text from Psalm 5:8 and 4:9

Samuel Sebastian Wesley  
(1810-1876)

### ▲ 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.

### ▲ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### ▲ HYMN 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

### ▲ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Dr. Robert R. Laha

### ▲ CHORAL RESPONSE 765

May the God of Hope Go With Us

ARGENTINA

### ▲ POSTLUDE

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” with “Blessed Assurance”

Robert Hebble

### ▲ Please stand as you are able

## MUSICAL NOTES

Today is all about combining the ancient with the modern—or perhaps, the reinterpretation of familiar themes through a contemporary lens. First, some older music: a haunting “Siciliana” (a slow, lilting dance from Sicily) by Venetian-born composer Antonio Pampani—like his sometimes-teacher, sometimes-rival Vivaldi, he wrote operas, oratorios, orchestral pieces, and concerti, but he is often overshadowed by his mentor; and the familiar short anthem by English composer-organist (and grandson of Charles Wesley) Samuel Sebastian Wesley called “Lead Me, Lord” which reimagines the English Reformation verse-anthem style (which alternates a solo melody with a filled out version sung by the full choir). And for the new music: two pieces by American organist Robert Hebble, who rose to fame as Virgil Fox’s assistant (and frequent fill-in) at Riverside Church in New York City, and later as a composer of choral and organ music. You’ll hear in both Anthem and Postlude today why he is often called a “colorist” composer—that is, with a variety of (and constantly shifting) harmony the way an artist mixes color. His prismatic use of musical sound is the trademark of his concert working and improvisations.

Today's flowers are given in memory of Ben & Angie McCleskey who were married Oct. 14, 1950.  
Given by Ellen McCleskey Beans and Jeff Beans.

Today's Duty Elder is Morgan Jones and Duty Deacon is Laura Cassidy.

A full worship service livestream at 11 AM is available at [opmh.org/livestream](https://opmh.org/livestream) and, thereafter, recordings of services are available at [vimeo.com/opmh](https://vimeo.com/opmh).

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

**October is Pastor Appreciation Month! Be sure to share with each of our pastors how much you appreciate all they do for you, our church and our community.**

- October Sundays:
    - 9:15 AM-12:15 PM, Outdoor childcare for infants and toddlers on the playground (weather permitting).
    - 9:30-10:30 AM, Multi-age Sunday School in the Churchyard, Adult Education in Heritage Hall or Zoom.
    - TODAY: Youth Group is combined Middle and High School from 5:00-7:00 PM, dinner included. All activities will be outside.
  - October 14 (and every Thursday), 10:00 AM via Zoom: Bible Study "Looking into the Lectionary"
  - October 17, Club 3-4-5: Blessing Box Build, 9:30-10:30 AM, Churchyard
  - October 17, StepALIVE! Walkathon
  - October 22, 7:00 PM Silent Film Screening and LIVE Organ Concert, "Phantom of the Opera" (1925)
  - November 5-7: Church Retreat at Massanetta Springs, information and registration at [opmh.org/2021retreat](https://opmh.org/2021retreat)
- For a complete listing of weekly and upcoming events, please visit [opmh.org](https://opmh.org).

### **Remember Our Capital Campaign**

We hope you will help us meet a very important objective for Our Capital Campaign: 100% participation by Meeting House members. The pledges to the capital campaign will strengthen our ability to care for our stimulating adult and youth programs and our essential missions to reach those in need. Pledges also benefit our Historic Church Preservation Fund. Thank you, all who have responded. We hope all members will pledge to help set our course for the years to come. Go to the webpage (<https://form.jotform.com/opmh/pledge>) to 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](https://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*  
A l e x a n d r i a ■ V i r g i n i a ■ 1 7 7 2

323 South Fairfax Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3716  
Phone: 703-549-6670  
[www.opmh.org](https://www.opmh.org)

Dr. Robert R. Laha, Pastor and Head of Staff • Rev. Katherine A. Stanford, Associate Pastor • Rev. Ann Herlin, Associate Pastor  
Dr. Steven Seigart, Director of Music and Organist • Mrs. Noelle Castin, Director of Christian Education • Mrs. Mary Pratt Perry, Youth Director  
Mr. Aaron Siirila, Business Administrator • Mrs. Ellen Haas, Membership and Accounting • Mrs. Vicki Stones, Communications Office Manager