



# Old Presbyterian Meeting House

**SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

May 22, 2022

**PRELUDE**

Prelude in A minor, BWV 543/i

J. S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

**WELCOME**

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

Rev. Katherine A. Stanford

**INTROIT**

Let Earth's Wide Circle Round  
*text by Edward Caswall (1814-1878)*

Clara Schumann  
(1819-1896)

## **PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

God's goodness is breaking into the world.

**God's Spirit is on the move.**

God calls and gathers those we judged to be outsiders.

**We witness the work of the Spirit as a force for healing and peace.**

So, let us sing praise to the Lord, our God!

**▲ HYMN 403**

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

UNSER HERRSCHER

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dr. Robert R. Laha

Gracious God, we equate our judgment with your judgment, and often consider our ways to be your ways. We define peace as the absence of disruption, holding our comfort as your aim and thinking our preferences reflect your way. Too often we act as if we are your authoritative witnesses, believing our worldview corresponds with your vision, and that our narrative contains your hope for the future. O God, dislodge us from our sinful assumptions. Forgive our selfish views. Correct us with your truth and teach us by your Spirit. Hear now the prayers we bring to you in silence...

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### ▲ ACT OF PRAISE 239

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing  
Verse 1

GELOBT SEI GOTT

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## GOD'S WORD TO US

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 14:23-29

### ANTHEM

Down in the river to pray  
Suzanne Karpov Seigart, soprano solo  
Jared Marshall, alto solo  
James Huchla, tenor solo  
Will Heim, bass solo

Spiritual, arr. Alison Krauss  
(b. 1971)

### TIME WITH CHILDREN

Mrs. Noelle Castin

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

### ▲ HYMN 688

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

MORCAMBE

### SERMON

The Teacher (aka, The Holy Spirit)

Dr. Robert R. Laha

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

### ▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

adapted from A Declaration of Faith, 1977

The Christian fellowship is not a society of perfect people. The struggle between the old way of life and the new is severe. Yet the Spirit produces among the followers of Jesus, love, joy, peace, and victories in the battle against evil.

We believe the Holy Spirit works today whenever believers grow toward maturity in Christ. As long as we live we struggle with sin, but the Spirit's presence assures us God will complete what God has begun.

### INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

### WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS

## 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

### OFFERTORY

A Gaelic Blessing

John Rutter

(b. 1945)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

### ▲ DOXOLOGY 609

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God, all creatures high and low.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise God, in Jesus fully known:**

**Creator, Word, and Spirit one.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

### ▲ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### ▲ HYMN 373

O Day of Peace

JERUSALEM

### ▲ CLOSING PRAYER

### ▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Richard Smallwood

### ▲ POSTLUDE

Toccata in Seven

John Rutter

▲ Please stand as you are able

Congregation reads the "**bold**" text

## MUSIC NOTES

This morning's music centers around the peace blessing and final teachings from our Gospel reading, and so today's anthem, based on American folk tune (probably a spiritual), is fiddler and vocalist Alison Krauss' arrangement of "Down to the river to pray." It may be familiar to you from the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, with solo sections blooming into rich choral sonorities, adding to the spirit of gathering and of solidarity. We'll also have John Rutter's popular *A Gaelic Blessing*, which takes its peaceful text from an assortment of ancient Gaelic prayers compiled by the composer. And the introit today is a round by composer and pianist Clara Schumann—largely overlooked in favor of her husband, Robert, though she outlived him by nearly 40 years and made a name for herself as a pianist and champion of her own works and those by close friend Johannes Brahms. This lovely short canon takes its text from verse three of a German hymn "Beim frühen Morgenlicht," translated by Edward Caswall as "When Morning Gilds the Skies." To frame today's service: a mysterious and ever-expanding prelude by Bach, and Rutter's most popular organ piece with a striking seven beats per measure.

## Today

To receive regular prayer updates, email Vicki, [vstones@opmh.org](mailto:vstones@opmh.org).

Duty Elder is Lenore Marema and Duty Deacon is Mike Farmer.

The flowers today are given in celebration of the wedding of Mark Comey and Julet Roque Rivero.

## Please join us after worship, in the Courtyard, for Fellowship Hour hosted by Circle 5.

Live worship today is available at 11:00 AM at [opmh.org/livestream](http://opmh.org/livestream).

Recordings are available at [vimeo.com/opmh](http://vimeo.com/opmh).

## Upcoming

- We will continue to worship at 11:00 am during the summer months beginning next week, May 29:
  - 10:45 AM-12:15 PM, Childcare for infants and toddlers in the Infant Nursery (Room 14 – Education Building).
  - Worship at 11:00 AM
  - Children's Sunday School and Sunday Adult Education classes will take a break for the summer. Contact Noelle Castin, [ncastin@opmh.org](mailto:ncastin@opmh.org), to learn more about education offerings for all ages.
  - Contact Mary Pratt Perry, [mpratt@opmh.org](mailto:mpratt@opmh.org), for Middle School and High School Youth Group schedule.
- Youth End of Year Celebration (for all youth families and volunteers), June 5, 5:30-7:30 PM, RSVP to Mary Perry, [mpratt@opmh.org](mailto:mpratt@opmh.org)
- **Rise Against Hunger** meal packing event, June 12 after worship, 12-2pm in Fellowship Hall. This is a family event, please register at [events.riseagainsthunger.org/opmh2022](http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/opmh2022).
- 250th Reunion Weekend, June 23-26, [opmh.org/250th](http://opmh.org/250th).

For a complete listing of weekly and upcoming events, visit [opmh.org](http://opmh.org).

## WAYS TO GIVE

1. Leave your offering in the offering plates.
2. Give online at [opmh.org/give](http://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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