



The Service of the Lord's Day

Order of Worship

**Please stand if you are able.
Congregation to recite bolded passages.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jenn DiFrancesco

PRELUDE

“He Leadeth Me” by John Purifoy

Valerie Adelung

CALL TO WORSHIP

Donna Marshall

We come to worship the One who makes space for healing.

The One who sees us, even in a crowded room.

We come from busy weeks, from quiet houses, from places where the way forward hasn't been clear.

But here, we are reminded we are not alone.

God welcomes those who show up in unexpected ways.

And invites us to bring our whole selves.

Our faith, our questions, our hope.

Let us worship the God who meets us right where we are and never leaves us there.

*HYMN # 403

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Donna Marshall

Sometimes the way forward is blocked. And sometimes we are the ones who block it. Let us bring to God our stuckness, our stubbornness, our silence, and trust that even this can be reworked.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Donna Marshall

God of the broken and the bold, we confess that we prefer comfort to courage. We wait for someone else to make the first move. We give up too easily. We walk away when the door is closed instead of asking what it would take to make a new way in. Forgive us. When faith requires risk, give us courage. When healing feels too far off, give us persistence. And when the roof needs tearing off, show us how to climb. Amen.

(Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jenn DiFrancesco

The one we come to see, the one we lower ourselves toward, does not turn away. Christ sees our faith. Christ speaks healing. We are forgiven. We are free. Thanks be to God.

*CELEBRATION OF FORGIVENESS # 443

“There is a Redeemer” verse 3

*When I stand in glory, I will see his face;
there I'll serve my King forever in that holy place.
Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Jenn DiFrancesco

**May the Peace of Christ be with you.
and also with you.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Donna Marshall

God, who opens roofs and opens hearts, break through what is hardened in us. Lower us gently into your presence, and speak a word we need to hear. Amen.

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Child, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there questioning in their hearts, “Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves, and he said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— “I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your home.” And he stood up and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Your Grace is Enough” by Matt Maher

Valerie Adelung

SERMON

“When the Rules Don’t Work”

Jenn DiFrancesco

*HYMN # 320

“The Church of Christ in Every Age”

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Jenn DiFrancesco

This is not a table reserved for the rule-followers or the always-faithful. This is Christ’s table. And here, the barriers we build are broken open. Here, the crowded room is made spacious. Here, those lowered in through the roof are lifted up. So come.

If the usual paths feel blocked. If the rules haven’t worked. If you’ve had to find a different way to show up. Come, this table is for you.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Jenn DiFrancesco

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right—and it is risky—to give thanks to you, O God, the One who has never been limited by closed doors, blocked paths, or full rooms. You are the God who makes space where there is none. You are the God who says, “Get up and walk” when the world says, “Sit down and wait your turn.”

From the beginning, you have broken open what seemed unmovable. You formed the world with a Word. You breathed life into dust. You led your people through sea and wilderness, fed them with what they couldn't name, and gave them law that pointed toward love.

When your people were trapped again, by fear, by injustice, by silence, you sent prophets who spoke hard truths, who rearranged the tables, who reminded us that your ways are not our ways.

And still, we turned inward. We built walls. We protected what was familiar. We clung to systems that worked for some and shut others out.

So you came yourself. You came in the person of Jesus, healer, table-flipper, teacher, troublemaker, the One who welcomed sinners and sat with strangers.

When the crowd pressed in and the room was full, he made space. When no one else would touch, he reached out. When people lowered their friend through a roof, he called it faith. And when the rules tried to contain Jesus, he loved anyway, even to the point of death.

But death did not stop him. Your love rolled the stone away. And now, we live in the light of resurrection, a story that continues to undo what we thought was final.

So with those who have torn through roofs, and those who have walked again, and all who have been surprised by grace, we join our voices with the saints and angels, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, O God, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh and your love made visible. He came into the world to heal what was broken, to forgive what we held onto, to call people back into community, and to show us what it looks like when love refuses to be contained. He broke bread with those who betrayed him. He poured a cup for those who doubted him. He offered his body for the sake of the world, and still does.

Remembering his grace, we take this bread and cup, and we offer ourselves, not because we are perfect, but because we believe love can still change things.

Holy Spirit, come. Come to this table. Come into these elements. Come into every place in us that's still blocked or brittle or tired. Open what needs to be opened. Restore what needs to be healed. And give us courage to tear the roof off for the sake of your love.

And now, with the boldness of the children of God, we pray:

**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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

Jenn DiFrancesco

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jenn DiFrancesco

God of roofs torn open, of broken bread and unexpected healing, we give you thanks for this meal: for the grace that meets us, for the strength to carry others, and for the courage to be carried when we need it.

You have fed us at this table, not to leave us where we are, but to send us out: to find the blocked door, to climb the hard path, and to make space for those who've been left outside.

Make us bold in faith, persistent in love, and ready to move what needs moving for the sake of your healing and your hope. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Jenn DiFrancesco

Sometimes the offering we bring is not what we expected to give. And sometimes it's time or vulnerability or persistence. Let us give what we have, trusting God to use it creatively.

During this time of offering, you may place your gift in the plate as you leave this morning, or give in any of the other ways listed in your bulletin's announcement page.

OFFERTORY

“The Trusting Heart” by Marianne Kim

Valerie Adelung

*DOXOLOGY #709

“God, We Honor You”

God, we honor you.

God, we trust in you.

God, we worship and adore you.

Take what we bring, offered to you.

Teach us to show your abundant blessings.

Alleluia, alleluia,

Alleluia, Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Jenn DiFrancesco

God, take what we offer: our gifts, our time, our hope and use it to open what's been closed, to lift what's been weighed down, to make space for healing and grace. Amen.

*HYMN # 726

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

*BENEDICTION

Jenn DiFrancesco

POSTLUDE

“My Country, Tis of Thee” by Lloyd Larson

Valerie Adelung

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our liturgist: Donna Marshall

Thank you to our ushers: Judi Forrester, Judy Yeager

HAVENWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Jenn DiFrancesco, Supply Pastor

The Rev. Cathy Bashore, Parish Associate

Susan Riegger, Preschool Director

Valerie Adelung, Music Director

Jake Miller, Worship Technology Coordinator

Julia Wells, Administrator

Lloyd Martin, Facilities Manager

SESSION

Sharon Huber-Plano – Clerk of Session

Joyce Beall – Personnel Committee

Judy Binkley – Worship Committee

Wende Smith – Preschool Committee

Chip Hurley – Stewardship Committee

Donna Marshall – Scouts Liaison

Samuel Gatua Muiruri – Spiritual Formation and Pastoral Support

DEACONS

Susan Bond

Elaine DePoy

Cynthia Smith

Barbara Reade

Jane Shaffer

Judy Yeager



100 E Ridgely Rd, Timonium, MD 21093

410-252-3073 | info@havenwood.org | www.havenwood.org



Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty 403

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so
 3 Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be


en - ter there, where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
 un - to me; where we find thee and a - dore thee,
 done in - deed; may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee,

waits for God who an - swers prayer; O how bless - ed
 there a heaven on earth must be; to my heart O
 while thou dost thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the

is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace.
 en - ter thou; let it be thy tem - ple now.
 foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

In the first stanza "Zion" is not a general synonym for Jerusalem but a reference to the part of the city where the Temple stood. It prepares the way for the interior temple of the heart in stanza two. The pre-existing tune is by a prominent German Reformed hymnwriter.


320 The Church of Christ in Every Age



1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

In this challenging text by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Capo 3: (D)

(A7)

(Bm)

(Em7)

(Asus) (A)

F

C7

Dm

Gm7

Csus C



- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
- 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D)

(A7)

(Bm)

(Em7)

(G)

(D)

F

C7

Dm

Gm7

B \flat

F



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7)

(G)

(F \sharp m7)

(G)

(Asus) (A)

Gm7

B \flat

Am7

B \flat

Csus C



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D)

(A7)

(Bm)

(Em7)

(G)

(D)

F

C7

Dm

Gm7

B \flat

F



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.