



Havenwood Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

March 8, 2026



O Jerusalem, Greg Olsen

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

“Be Still and Know” by Richard A. Williamson

Valerie Adelung

CALL TO WORSHIP

Geoffrey Miller

We wonder what God will say to us today.

Speak, Lord, Your servants are listening.

We wonder what parts of our lives need re-ordering.

Shape us by Your Word, not by our habits.

We wonder how peace can grow in us.

Teach us to love our neighbors well.

We wonder what hope is for in a world like this.

Root us in Christ, and keep us steady.

Let us worship God.

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN # 404

“What Is This Place”

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Geoffrey Miller

Friends, Lent invites us to return. Not to perform, not to prove, not to clean ourselves up first. We come as we are, trusting that God's mercy meets us before we have the right words. So let us confess our sin and tell the truth in God's presence.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Geoffrey Miller

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have relied on our own understanding and turned from Your ways.

This week, we confess: we let fear shape our choices. We try to control outcomes instead of trusting You. We turn inward instead of loving our neighbors, and we miss what makes for peace. Forgive us, and lead us in the way that leads to life.

(Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jenn DiFrancesco

Hear the good news: God does not turn away from those who return. In Jesus Christ, mercy comes first, and grace holds. This week we remember: Jesus weeps for what harms us, and He still comes near. He turns us from fear and toward the things that grow peace.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, and we are being made new. Thanks be to God.

*CELEBRATION OF FORGIVENESS # 581

“Glory Be to the Father”

*Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, amen.*

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Geoffrey Miller

God of Light and Truth, as we open Your Word, open us. Quiet the noise that keeps us from hearing. Re-order what is tangled in us. Give us courage to receive what challenges us, and freedom to live what You show us. By Your Spirit, make Christ clear to us in these scriptures so that our lives might look more like His. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Judges 11:29–40

Geoffrey Miller

Then the spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh. He passed on to Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed on to the Ammonites. And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord and said, “If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, then whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return victorious from the Ammonites, shall be the Lord’s, to be offered up by me as a burnt offering.” So Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them, and the Lord gave them into his hand. He inflicted a massive defeat on them from Aroer to the neighborhood of Minnith, twenty towns, and as far as Abel-keramim. So the Ammonites were subdued before the Israelites.

Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah, and there was his daughter coming out to meet him with timbrels and with dancing. She was his only child; he had no son or daughter except her. When he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, “Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low; you have become the cause of great trouble to me. For I have opened my mouth to the Lord, and I cannot take back my vow.” She said to him, “My father, if you have opened your mouth to the Lord, do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, now that the Lord has given you vengeance against your enemies, the Ammonites.”

And she said to her father, “Let this thing be done for me: grant me two months, so that I may go and wander on the mountains and bewail my virginity, my companions and I.” “Go,” he said, and he sent her away for two months. So she departed, she and her companions, and bewailed her virginity on the mountains. At the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did with her according to the vow he had made. She had never slept with a man. So there arose an Israelite custom that for four days every year the daughters of Israel would go out to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite.

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

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“I Surrender All” arr. by Sandra Eithun

Handbell Choir

SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:41–44

Jenn DiFrancesco

As [Jesus] came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you and hem you in on every side. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.”

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

I Wonder What Peace Can Grow in Us

Jenn DiFrancesco

SUNG PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE #346
AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Jenn DiFrancesco

Holy God, we give You thanks. For breath in our lungs today. For this community, gathered and held. For the ways You keep showing up, even when we miss it. For the love of Christ that does not let go. For the Spirit who keeps working in us, re-ordering what is tangled, softening what has gotten hard.

We thank You for every sign of peace we have seen, a kindness, a repair, a second chance, a neighbor who showed up, a word that steadied someone, a moment when we chose life instead of fear.

And still, God, we look at Your world and we know it is aching.

*For the healing of nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.*

God, we pray for the nations and for all people. Where power is used to crush instead of protect, turn it. Where leaders trade truth for applause, expose what is false and strengthen what is faithful. Where communities are divided into enemies, teach us another way.

We pray for places at war and places bracing for war. For civilians who cannot get safe. For children living with sirens and shortages. For all who are displaced, grieving, or trapped.

God, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

*Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.*

God, we pray for our neighbors close to home. For those who are exhausted by the grind of everyday life. For those carrying financial stress, housing instability, food insecurity. For those in recovery, taking one day at a time. For those who feel alone, unseen, or judged.

Grow peace in us that is practical. Peace that listens before it reacts. Peace that shares, welcomes, and makes room. Peace that refuses to turn people into problems.

God, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

*All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.*

God, we pray for Your church, including this congregation. When we are tempted to make faith a bargain, bring us back to trust. When fear shapes our choices, teach us the way that leads to life. When we turn inward, turn us outward in love.

Give us courage to do the next right thing. Give us humility to admit when we are wrong. Give us patience to keep doing the slow work of peace. We lift before You those we name aloud, and those we carry silently.

God, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

*You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind,
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.*

God, You have shown us what makes for peace in Jesus. So send us out steady. Not proving ourselves, not bargaining, not performing. Just living awake, loving our neighbors well, and choosing the way that leads to life. We pray in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray saying...

**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.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Jenn DiFrancesco

We give today as a small practice of peace, for our neighbors, for this community, for the world God loves.

During this time of offering, we can share our financial gifts by placing them in the offering plates at the end of worship or giving online.

OFFERTORY

“Holy, Holy, Holy” by Franz Schubert

Valerie Adlung

*DOXOLOGY # 606

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Jenn DiFrancesco

Generous God, receive these gifts. Use them to grow peace among us, to love our neighbors well, and to lead us in the way that gives life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

*HYMN

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Please see sheet music in the back of the bulletin.

*BENEDICTION

Jenn DiFrancesco

POSTLUDE

“The Call to Commitment” by Lani Smith

Valerie Adlung

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our liturgists: Geoffrey Miller

Thank you to our ushers: Judy Binkley, Judi Forrester

431 Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with

me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was

meant to be. *With God our cre - a - tor,

chil - dren all are we. Let us

walk with each oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.

*Original words: With God as our Father, brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

WORDS: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

MUSIC: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1987

WORLD PEACE
Irr.

© 1955. Assigned to Jan-Lee Music, © renewed 1983

Words & Music, S. Miller & J. Jackson; ©1955 Assigned to Jan-Lee Music, © renewed 1983; ONE LIFE!

Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment

now. With ev - ery step I take, let

this be my sol - emn vow: to take each mo - ment and

live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

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

Jane Shaffer

Judy Yeager



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What Is This Place

1 What is this place, where we are meet-ing? On - ly a house, the
 2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing. Sparks that are sown in
 3 And we ac - cept bread at his ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a

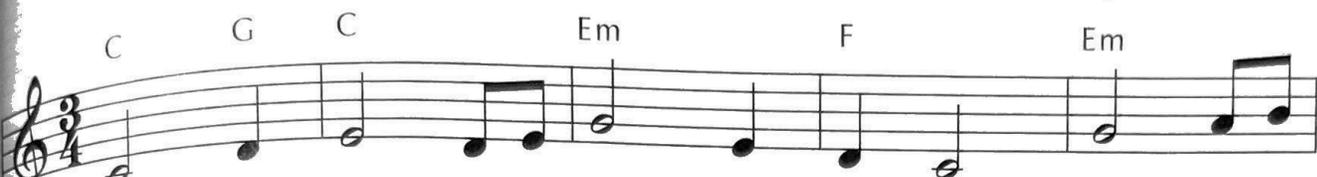
earth its floor. Walls and a roof, shel - ter - ing peo - ple, win - dows for
 us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs, and won - ders sent from the
 liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing, we are each

light, an o - pen door. Yet it be - comes a bod - y that
 past are what we need. We in this place re - mem - ber and
 oth - er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re -

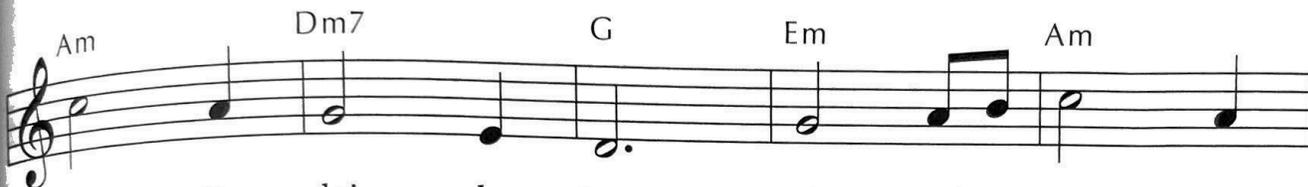
lives when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
 speak a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem - ing word.
 ceive what we need to in - crease: God's jus - tice and God's peace.

This text by a 20th-century Jesuit beautifully captures the fundamental truth that "church" is not primarily the building but the people who come together in order to be nourished by Word and Table so that they may show forth Christ's redeeming presence in the world.

All Who Love and Serve Your City 351



1 All who love and serve your cit - y, all who
 2 In your day of wealth and plen - ty, wast - ed
 3 For all days are days of judg - ment, and the
 4 Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y be the



bear its dai - ly stress, all who cry for
 work and wast - ed play, call to mind the
 Lord is wait - ing still, draw - ing near a
 cit - y of de - spair? Come to - day, our



peace and jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless:
 word of Je - sus, "You must work while it is day."
 world that spurns him, of - fering peace from Cal - vary's hill.
 judge, our glo - ry. Be its name "The Lord is there!"

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This 20th-century text greatly enriches the neglected genre of urban hymns. The second stanza quotes John 9:4, the third stanza refers to Jesus weeping over Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37/Luke 13:34), and the final line cites the name given to Israel's future holy city (Ezekiel 48:35).

TEXT: Erik Routley, 1966

MUSIC: *The United States Sacred Harmony*, 1799; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1964

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Music Harm. © 1965 Abingdon Press (admin. The Copyright Company)

CHARLESTOWN

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