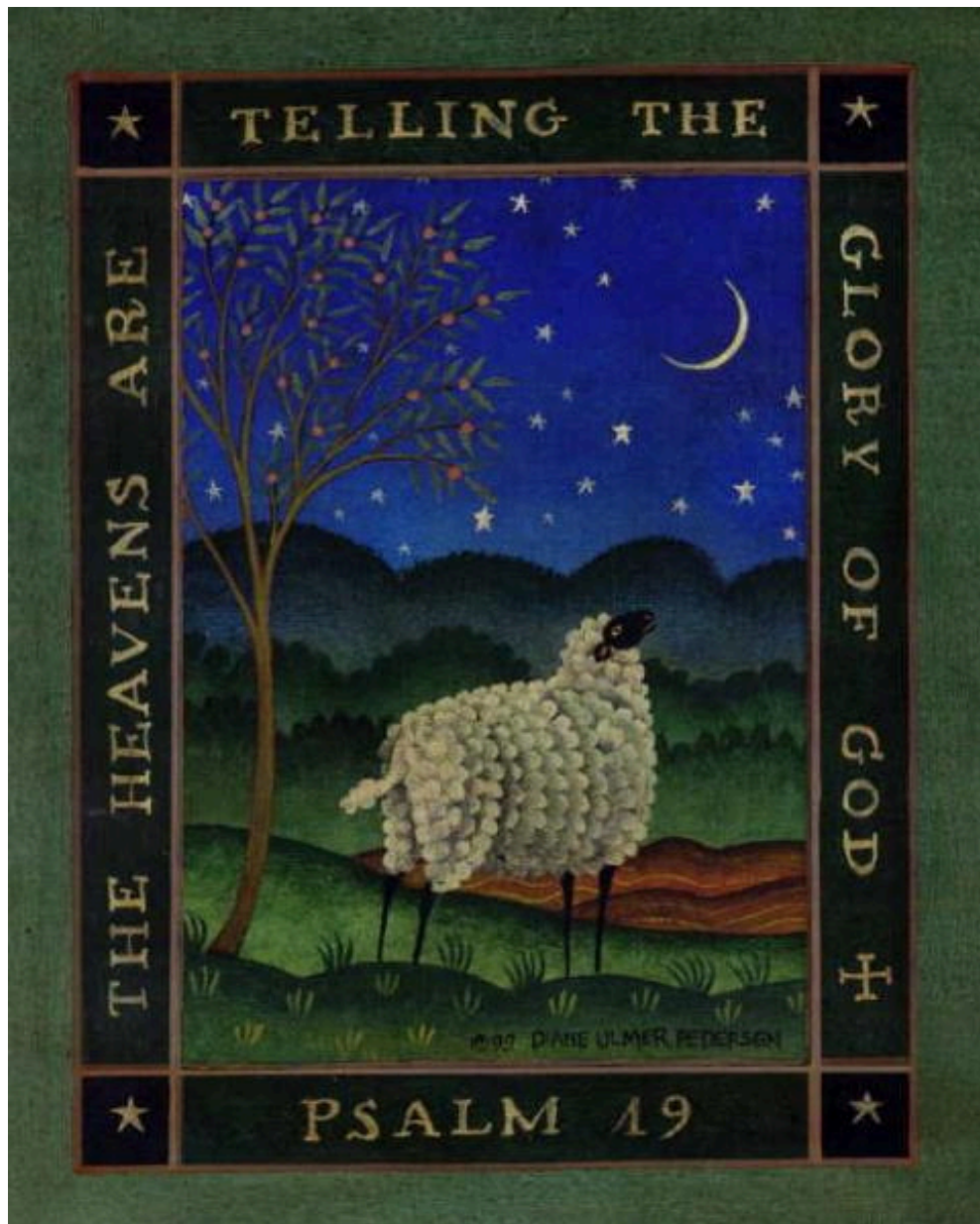




Havenwood Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

June 14, 2026



Psalm 19 - The heavens are telling the glory of God, Diane Ulmer Pedersen

The Service of the Lord's Day

Order of Worship

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judy Binkley

PRELUDE

“Glorified, Blessed, and Worthy”
by Lyndell Leatherman

Valerie Adlung

CALL TO WORSHIP

Donna Marshall

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

The decrees of the Lord are sure, making the simple wise.

The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.

The commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.

God gathers us to hear the Word.

God opens our hearts to receive it.

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN # 401

“Here in This Place”

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Donna Marshall

When the people gathered in Nehemiah's day, they came hungry for the Word of God. As the Word was read and explained, they began to see themselves more clearly. They remembered who God had called them to be, and they also saw where they had fallen short. We come before God in that same spirit, trusting that God's truth is never separated from God's mercy. Let us confess our sin together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Donna Marshall

Gracious God, You speak words of life, but we do not always listen. You call us together as your people, but we often turn inward. You give us Your Word to guide us, but we choose our own way. You teach us mercy, justice, and faithfulness, but we get distracted, defensive, and afraid. Forgive us, God; open our ears to hear you. Open our hearts to receive you. Open our lives to follow where you lead. Restore us by your grace and make us ready to live as your people through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Rev. Sam Gatua Muiruri

Friends, hear the Good News: God's Word does not come to us as a burden, but it's grace that restores, truth that sets us free, and mercy that makes us new.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. We are gathered again. We are given joy for the journey. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*CELEBRATION OF FORGIVENESS # 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.

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The Rev. Sam Gatua Muiruri

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Donna Marshall

Living God, by Your Spirit, open the Scriptures to us this day. Help us hear Your Word with humility, attention, and joy. Let it comfort what is weary, challenge what is false, and strengthen us for faithful living. May the words we hear become the life we share, through Jesus Christ, the Living Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 19:7-14

Donna Marshall

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect one's own errors?

Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless
and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“With Heart and Hand and Voices”
by Douglas E. Wagner

Handbell Choir

SCRIPTURE

Nehemiah 8:1-8

The Rev. Sam Gatua Muiruri

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose, and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Also the Levites Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

When The Word Returns The Rev. Sam Gatua Muiruri

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The Apostles' Creed The Rev. Sam Gatua Muiruri

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontious Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;**

**he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen**

***HYMN # 459**

“O Word of God Incarnate”

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. Sam Gatua Muiruri

**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

Donna Marshall

The Word of God does not return empty. It gathers, teaches, restores, and sends. In gratitude for the grace we have received, let us offer our gifts for the ministry of Christ's church and the healing of God's world.

During this time of offering, we can share our financial gifts by placing them in the offering plates as you leave, or giving online.

OFFERTORY

“Andante Grazioso” by W.A. Mozart

Valerie Adelung

*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

Donna Marshall

**God of wisdom and grace, You have given us Your Word as light for our path and strength for our living. Receive these gifts and use them for Your purpose. May they support the ministry of this church, share the good news with our neighbors, and help us live what we have heard. Shape us into a people who listen with care, serve with courage, and rejoice in Your love; they're Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

*HYMN # 757

“Today, We Are Called to Be Disciples”

*BENEDICTION

The Rev. Sam Gatua Muiruri

POSTLUDE

“The Quest of the Holy Spirit”
by David Paxton

Valerie Adelung

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our liturgist: Donna Marshall

Thank you to our ushers: Joyce Beall, Phyllis DiFrancesco

Thank you to our guest preacher: The Rev. Sam Gatua Muiruri

As a dedicated minister and missionary, I serve alongside my wife, Mary Thuo, sharing our lives with our two young daughters, Maria (8) and Anna (6). My theological journey includes a diploma from Moffat Bible College, a Bachelor's degree from Greater Washington Missions University, and a recently completed Master's of Arts in Theology and a Master's in Church Ministry from St. Mary's Seminary and University. I am currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry from Nazarene Theological Seminary.

My sixteen years in ministry began as a missionary working with Somali communities along the Kenya-Tanzania border, followed by service as a pastor with the Africa Inland Church (AIC). Today, Mary and I lead Good Neighbours (Kenya), a ministry we founded to serve children with special needs and support African immigrants in the Baltimore area and beyond.

HAVENWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Jenn DiFrancesco, Supply Pastor

The Rev. Cathy Bashore, Parish Associate

Susan Riegger, Preschool Director

Kathy Stewart, Assistant Director of Preschool Operations

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

DEACONS

Susan Bond

Betty Crovo

Elaine DePoy

Grace McDowell

Cynthia Smith

Judy Yeager



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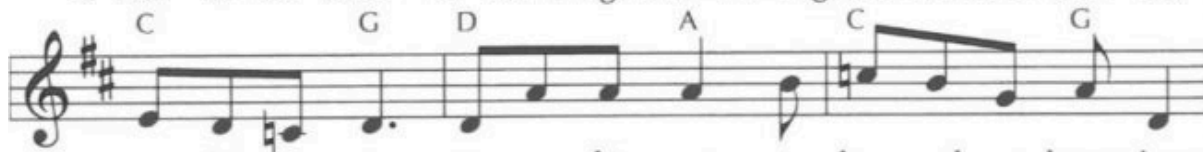
Here in This Place

401

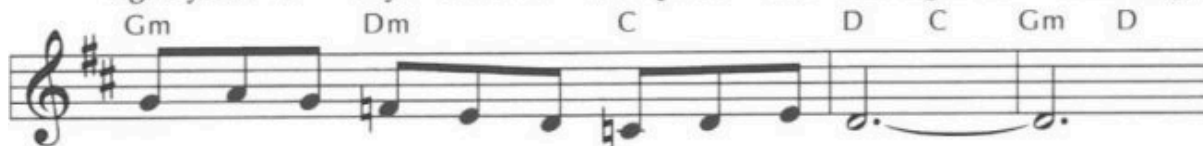
Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

459 O Word of God Incarnate

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The church from you, dear Sav - ior, re - ceived this gift di - vine;
 3 O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
 and still that light is lift - ed on all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;

we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this our path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 a - mid the rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, clouds and storms thus end - ed, we see you face to face.

The opening four lines of this hymn celebrate attributes of Christ that are revealed through holy Scripture, which serves as a lantern, a chart, and a compass for the church in seeking to know Christ better. The setting of the tune comes from Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
 proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
 store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
 we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
 spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
 was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
 calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.