



Havenwood Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

October 11, 2026



Wedding Feast, John August Swanson

The Service of the Lord's Day

Order of Worship

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Huber-Plano

PRELUDE

“Come Away to the Skies” by Tracy Craig McKibben Valerie Adelung

CALL TO WORSHIP

Geoff Miller

God is a refuge for people in distress.

We come seeking shelter in God's care.

God prepares a feast for all peoples.

We come to worship and to listen.

Let us bring our whole lives before God.

Let us worship God.

*HYMN # 301

“Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Geoff Miller

We may believe that everyone deserves a safe place to live and still find ourselves making judgments about whose needs should come first. We may want things to change while hoping someone else will do the work. Let us confess our sins before God, who meets us with mercy and calls us to begin again.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we confess that we have become used to seeing neighbors struggle to find and keep a home. We hear about rising costs, damaged houses, and families with nowhere stable to go, but too often we let the news pass us by.

Forgive us when we make assumptions about people whose lives we do not know. Forgive us when we speak of caring for our neighbors but leave the work to others. Help us listen without judgment, and teach us to act with care. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Geoff Miller

**Hear the good news: God's mercy is greater than our failures. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and called to live differently.
Thanks be to God.**

*CELEBRATION OF FORGIVENESS # 582

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
Amen***

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Geoff Miller

**The Peace of Christ be with you.
and also with you.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, help us listen closely to Your word today. When a passage troubles us, keep us from rushing past it. Give us wisdom to ask honest questions and courage to hear what our neighbors have to say. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 25:1–9

Geoff Miller

O Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC “May Jesus Christ Be Praised!” by Lloyd Larson Chancel Choir

*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed. His compassions never fail.
They are new every morning. Great is God's faithfulness.
When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries, May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair, may Jesus Christ be praised!
The night becomes as day when from the heart we say May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine, May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song through all the ages long, we'll sing the one eternal song,
May Jesus Christ be praised!*

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:1–14

Sharon Huber-Plano

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’”

But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Brandon Jerome

*HYMN # 769

“For Everyone Born”

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

Geoff Miller

**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 Pontius 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.**

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Geoff Miller

God of grace, we begin with thanks. For the gifts of this past week, for a kindness we received, a meal we shared, or a moment when we could rest, we thank you. For people who love us and people who have helped us without knowing how much we needed it, we thank you. For this morning and this gathering, we thank you.

God of grace,
Receive our prayer.

We turn our attention to your world. We pray for people living through war, for families separated by violence, and for those searching for safety far from home. We remember those whose suffering fills the news and those whose suffering receives little notice. May help reach them. May those who can end violence choose to do so. May people working for peace find the strength to continue.

God of grace,
Receive our prayer.

We pray for this country. Give those who govern a clear understanding of the lives affected by their decisions. We remember people who cannot afford enough food, a visit to the doctor, or a place to live. As we prepare to vote, help us look beyond what benefits us personally and consider what our neighbors need.

God of grace,
Receive our prayer.

We pray for the neighborhoods around us, for the people we pass on our way to church and the households behind doors we have never entered. You know where rent is overdue, where a refrigerator is nearly empty, and where someone is afraid to open the next bill. Bring relief to those under strain. Help us learn enough about our neighbors to offer useful help.

God of grace,
Receive our prayer.

Today we give thanks for the work of Habitat for Humanity. We pray for the families preparing for homeownership, for those repairing homes, and for everyone contributing time, skill, and resources. Bless Brandon and his colleagues in their work. Help us understand what it takes to make a home affordable and safe, and show us where we can contribute.

God of grace,
Receive our prayer.

We pray now for Havenwood. Thank you for the people who prepare this place for worship, teach our children, make music, keep things running, and check on one another during the week. We remember those who would like to be here but cannot, and those who are finding it difficult to return. Help us care for them and make room for those just beginning to find their way here.

God of grace,
Receive our prayer.

We bring you the people on our hearts this morning. Those who are sick. Those waiting for news. Those recovering from surgery or learning to live with a diagnosis. Those who are exhausted by caregiving, worried about someone they love, or grieving someone they miss.

We speak their names now, aloud or silently.

*[You are invited to name those for whom you pray,
aloud or silently, as you feel comfortable.]*

Give each of them care suited to their needs.

God of grace,
Receive our prayer.

And we pray for ourselves. You know what has occupied our thoughts this morning, even as we have tried to pray for others. Receive our worries, our gratitude, and the things we have not been able to say. Stay with us through the week ahead.

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus, joining our voices in the prayer he taught us:

**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

Geoff Miller

Let us bring our gifts before God with gratitude.

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

“Jesus Loves Me” by J.B. Taylor

Valerie Adelung

***DOXOLOGY # 609**

“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”

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**

Geoff Miller

God, receive these gifts and the work of our hands. Help us use what we have with care for our neighbors and for this community. Amen.

***HYMN # 749**

“Come! Live in the Light!”

***BENEDICTION**

Geoff Miller

**Go into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold on to what is good.
Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen those who are fainthearted.
Support those who are weak. Help those who suffer. Honor all people.
Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the
blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be with us now and always.
Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” by Brad Nix

Valerie Adelung

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our liturgists: Geoff Miller, Sharon Huber-Plano

Thank you to our ushers: Joyce Beall, Elaine DePoy

Thank you to our guest speaker: Brandon Jerome

This morning we welcome Brandon Jerome of Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake to Havenwood. Brandon serves as Habitat Chesapeake's Major Gift Officer, helping connect supporters with its work to make affordable homeownership possible for more families in our region.

Habitat for Humanity began in 1976, founded by Millard and Linda Fuller around the idea of people working alongside their neighbors to build affordable homes. Habitat Chesapeake has been doing this work locally since 1982, building and renovating more than 830 homes across Baltimore City and Baltimore, Anne Arundel, and Howard counties. Future homeowners contribute volunteer hours and participate in financial education and home maintenance classes as they prepare for homeownership.

Havenwood has a long history with Habitat through our partnership with the North Baltimore Presbyterians. Together, these churches have helped fund homes and supplied volunteers for construction and renovation. By 2023, the group was sponsoring its fourth Habitat home in the Woodbourne-McCabe neighborhood. Havenwood volunteers have returned year after year, hanging drywall, painting, and working alongside neighbors and Habitat staff. Our involvement has also included summer camps for neighborhood children, giving us opportunities to get to know the people who live there.

As North Baltimore churches explore sponsoring another Faith House together, Brandon's visit gives us a chance to hear about Habitat's work today and how Havenwood can continue to support the good work that Habitat does.

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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Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B^b C Dm



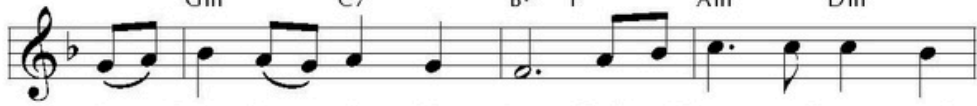
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea-sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
Gm C F B^b



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
F B^b A7 Dm Gm Dm



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F



all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

769

For Everyone Born



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

Refrain



and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus-tice and joy!

749

Come! Live in the Light!

We Are Called

1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that

joy and the love of the Lord! We are called
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,

to be light for the king - dom, to live in the
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and

free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 vio - lence will be no more.
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain

We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to
 love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -
 oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

The thematic and musical center of this hymn on the vocation of all believers is found in the refrain, which is based on the well-known challenge of Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"