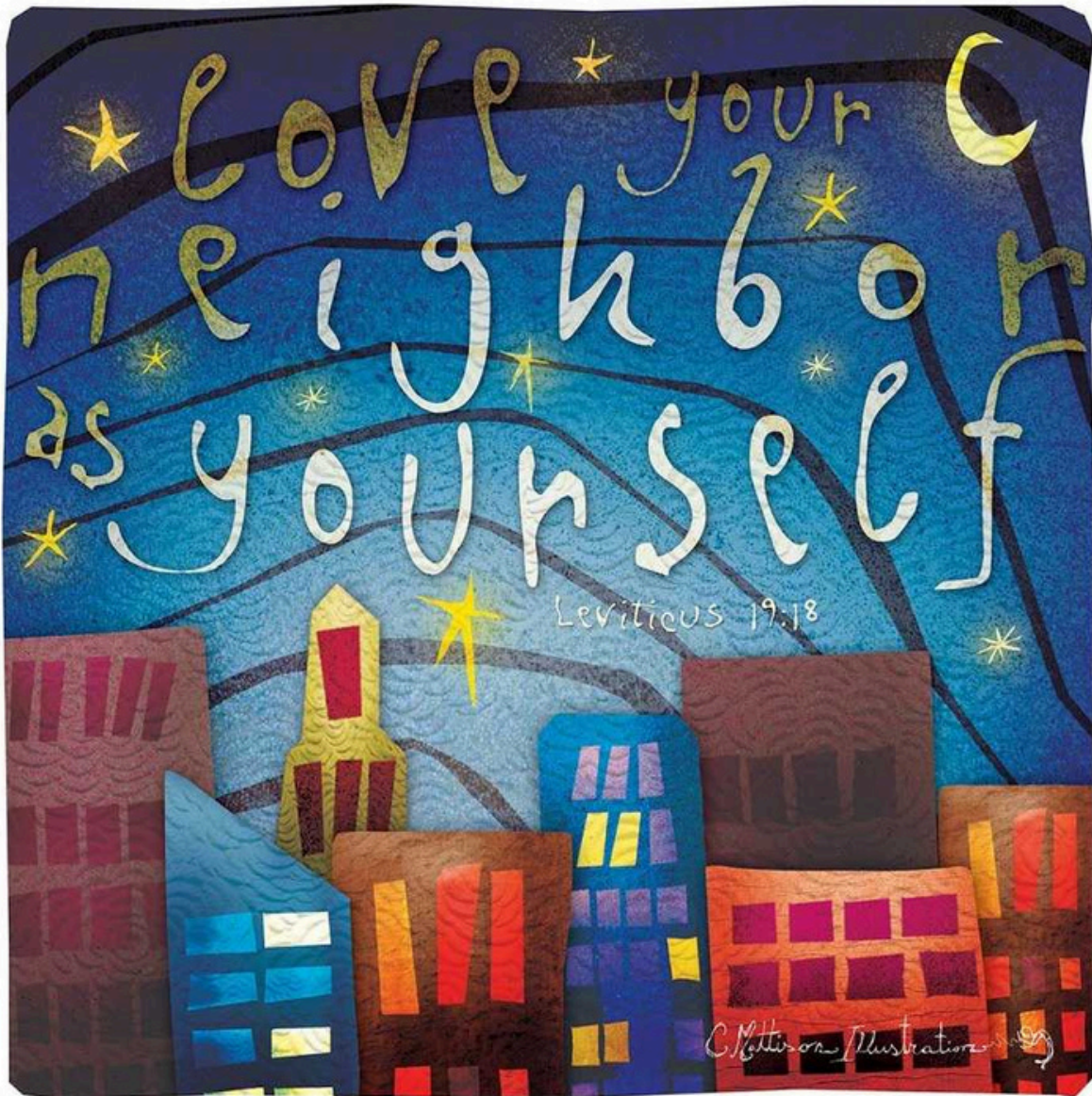




Havenwood Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

October 25, 2026



Love Your Neighbor, Christina Mattison Ebert

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

“Sweet Hour of Prayer” by Patricia Lou Harris

Valerie Adelung

CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace McDowell

God calls us to love with our whole lives.

We bring our hearts and minds before God.

God calls us to judge fairly and to speak truthfully.

We come to learn how to live with our neighbors.

Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Let us worship God, who teaches us this love.

*HYMN # 275

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Grace McDowell

We know the commandment to love our neighbors. We also know how quickly we begin making exceptions. Trusting that God's mercy can meet us where we are and lead us toward change, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Grace McDowell

Holy God, we confess that we want to choose which neighbors we are responsible for loving. We listen more carefully to people who agree with us. We make judgments about people whose circumstances we have never had to face. We resent being corrected, even when our words have caused harm.

Forgive us when we use our faith to excuse what you have asked us to confront. Forgive us when we protect our own comfort while another person's well-being is at risk. Teach us to judge fairly and to speak without cruelty. Let our love for You shape the choices we make and the way we treat the people affected by them. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jenn DiFrancesco

Hear the good news: Christ meets our confession with mercy. We are forgiven, and the Holy Spirit is at work among us, teaching us to love more faithfully.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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**

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Grace McDowell

God of wisdom, keep us from hearing familiar words so quickly that we miss what they ask of us. As we listen today, bring to mind the people we struggle to love. Help us hear Your word with them in view. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Grace McDowell

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the Lord.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:34-46

Jenn DiFrancesco

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet?

“If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

SERMON

“Which Neighbor Doesn’t Count?”

Jenn DiFrancesco

*HYMN # 754

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

**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

Jenn DiFrancesco

**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

Through our giving, we help sustain this congregation's worship and its care for our neighbors. With gratitude for what God has entrusted to us, let us bring our offerings.

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

“Offertory in G” by Ludwig van Beethoven

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

Jenn DiFrancesco

Generous God, receive what we offer today. Put these gifts to work where people need food, companionship, and care. Help us follow our giving with attention to our neighbors and a willingness to share in the work. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN # 729

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

*BENEDICTION

Jenn DiFrancesco

POSTLUDE

“Festive Piece” by Dennis Eliot

Valerie Adelung

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our liturgist: Grace McDowell

Thank you to our ushers: Betty Crovo, Dave Binkley

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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275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat-en to un-
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
 bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ
 truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark-ness grim, we
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and
 Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from
 trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for
 mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

Help Us Accept Each Other 754



1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.

729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
 2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
 4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,
 In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Through its recurring phrase, "in my heart," this poignant African American spiritual expresses the desire that our professed faith will not be superficial or hypocritical but will permeate the very center of our being, so that we may truly be the people God calls us to be.