

Order of Worship

8:00 AM:

Song Leader: Kevin Caldwell

660 There is a Habitation

Call to Worship: Steve Jones

9 A Wonderful Savior

155 Highest Place (SFP)

709 'Tis Midnight and on Olive's Brow

Bread: Reggie Oliver

Fruit of the Vine: Chris Forand

Giving: Lester de Caires

541 Prince of Peace, Control My Will

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:36-46
Charles Hamilton

658 There is Much to Do

Sermon: Ricky Cook

— Refiner's Fire

Prayer Requests/Announcements

— Salvation Belongs to Our God

Closing Prayer: Lester de Caires

Usher 1: Bob Ozomah

Usher 2: Alan Sandlin

Projectionist: Carl Wamble

Our songs today are from Songs of Faith and Praise, Praise for the Lord and the Supplement.

10:30 AM:

Song Leader: Kevin Nash

567 Restore My Soul

753 Farther Along

Call to Worship: Alan Bobo

— I Really Love the Lord

472 A Shelter in Time of Storm

310 In Gethsemane Alone (PFL)

Bread: Bruce Robins

Fruit of the Vine: Rodney Philyaw

Giving: Steve Koziol

— Thank You Lord

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:36-46
John Birus

S-33 A Mansion, Robe and Crown

Sermon: Ricky Cook

29 All to Jesus I Surrender (PFL)

Prayer Requests/Announcements

988 I'll Be List'ning

Closing Prayer: Steve Koziol

Usher 1: Michael Ozomah

Usher 2: Ethan Graves

Projectionist: Chuck Morris

Our songs today are from Songs of Faith and Praise, Praise for the Lord and the Supplement.



Guest Guide:

- Nursery and Training room are upstairs.
- Children's classes are downstairs.
- Looking for a church home? We'd love to tell you about this congregation.
- Please fill out a guest card and give it to one of the ushers.
- Communion cups are available in the foyer. The cups will be picked up by the ushers after communion.

Serving Next Week: May 31st

8:00 Service

Brother of the Month: Carl Wamble

Song Leader: Carl Wamble

Call To Worship: Bernard Foster

Bread: Eric Gilbey

Fruit of the Vine: Kevin Taylor

Giving: Zane Huckabey

Scripture Reader: Byron Vaughan

Closing Prayer: Zane Huckabey

Usher 1: LeRoy Bell

Usher 2: Kevin Hogg

Projectionist: Kevin Caldwell

10:30 Service

Brother of the Month: Antoine Johnson

Song Leader: Bruce Robins

Call to Worship: Vaughn Harvey

Bread: Demetrius Morris

Fruit of the Vine: Kerry Clark

Giving: Antoine Johnson

Scripture Reader: Cornelius Morris

Closing Prayer: Antoine Johnson

Usher 1: Joe Ford

Usher 2: Adrian Williams

Projectionist: Allen Pratt

We would like the men scheduled to serve in the worship service meet in the copier room at 7:45 and 10:15 to prepare for the service.

Wednesday, May 27th

Song Leader: Kevin Nash

Devotional Leader: Bernard Foster

Closing Prayer: Zane Huckabey

Projectionist: Kevin Caldwell



Where Faith Meets Life!

Life Groups Meet Today

Laurel church of Christ

May 24, 2026

Are We Better?

“Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.” *Isaiah 48:10*

It has been said, “*Adversity is not a monster to be feared, but a challenge to be embraced.*” The above referenced passage declares to us that God can, and sometimes does, use adversity to discipline His children. The fall of Jerusalem and the Babylonian exile had been prophesied by God centuries before these things came to pass. God's purpose in foretelling these things was twofold. One purpose was that when these things came to pass Israel would know that they happened according to the permissive will of God. The other purpose was that Israel learn that God was to be trusted.

God had a purpose in what He allowed. Israel was to be “refined” by the Babylonian captivity. The reference is to that of purifying metal by subjecting it to intense heat and thus separating the metal from the dross. “...but not with silver...” means that this was about something far more important than obtaining literal silver. God was spiritually refining Israel as a nation.

The apostle Paul declared that the things written concerning Israel should serve as an example for our learning – *Romans 15:4* “*For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*” Every adverse situation that we face in life is not necessarily a matter of our being disciplined by God (i.e. – Job). Yet, it must be acknowledged that this is a possibility.

Whatever the reason for our adversity let us take comfort and rejoice in the fact that God has something better in mind than the adversity itself. Whether the adversity be to correct us or perfect us, God's grace is sufficient (*2 Corinthians 12:9-10*), His mercy is boundless (*2 Peter 3:10*), and His faithfulness endures (*1 Peter 4:19*). To God be the glory! Amen!

Because He lives,
Ricky Cook

Sunday:

Worship: 8:00 am, 10:30 am,
Spanish service 12:15 pm
Bible Classes: 9:30 am
Spanish Bible Classes: 11:00

Wednesday:

Bible Classes: 7 pm

Shepherds:

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Bernard Foster: 410-782-9091
Vaughn Harvey: 443-902-5460
Allen Pratt: 410-730-1075
Steve Thornton: 301-362-6785
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Deacons:

Chen Colunga Steve Jones
Chris Forand Del Meadows
Joe Ford Jerry Prestridge
Eric Gilbey Bob Ozomah
Emagii Graves Bruce Robins
Antoine Johnson

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