

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Orange Park Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 13, 2026 • Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

"A Faithful Shepherd is My Lord"

Macklin

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: With all our hearts, we will praise God's holy name!

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: Praise the Lord, all the earth, everyone, everywhere!

All: We too will praise the Lord!

Opening Prayer

* Hymn (#620)

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

Goss

CELEBRATING GOD'S GRACE

Call to Confession

Confession of Sin (Unison)

We confess that we are quick to judge others yet slow to examine ourselves. You welcome all people, but we draw circles of exclusion. You call us to mutual forbearance, but we bicker over differences and look down on our neighbors. Lord, you have forgiven us a debt we could never repay, yet we hold onto grudges and demand perfection from those around us. Forgive our hard hearts. Remind us that we all stand before your judgment seat, sustained only by your grace. Teach us how to forgive as many as seventy-seven times, so that our lives may mirror your boundless mercy. (Moment of silent confession.) Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

* *Stand if able*

The Peace of Christ

- * **Hymn (#447)** *"We Are Forgiven"* Hopson
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

THE PROCLAIMING OF GOD'S WORD

Faith Sharing With Children

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Romans 14:1-12

- * **Hymn (#445)** *"God, How Can We Forgive"* Lyon/Olivers

Second Reading Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon Rev. James Kendrick

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

- * **Affirmation of Faith (Unison)**

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. (From The Book of Common Worship)

- * **Gloria Patri (#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.

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

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

Offertory

"We Thank You, God"

Page

* **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.

[or "God"]*

Prayer of Dedication

SENT TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD

* **Hymn** (#649)

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

Excell

* **Charge & Benediction**

* **Postlude**

"God Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

1844

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each one of us will be held accountable to God.

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.

So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'

And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Orange Park Presbyterian Church

1905 Park Avenue
Orange Park, FL 32073
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620 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

(Psalm 103)

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his
 3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be -

feet your trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for -
 peo - ple in dis - tress; praise him still the same as
 fee - ble frame he knows; in his hands he gent - ly
 hold him face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be -

giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia!
 ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia!
 bears us, res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!
 fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

This free paraphrase of Psalm 103 gains much energy and conviction by including the double "Alleluia!" before the final line of text. That repeated four-note figure descending from the tune's highest note gives voice to the praise that the rest of the hymn evokes.

445 God, How Can We Forgive



1 God, how can we for - give when bonds of love are torn?
 2 When we have missed the mark, and tears of an - guish flow,
 3 Who dares to throw the stone to damn an - oth - er's sin,



How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?
 how can you still re - lease our guilt, the debt we owe?
 when you, while know - ing all our past, for - give a - gain?



When hu - man lov - ing fails and ev - ery hope is gone,
 The o - cean depth of grace sur - pass - es all our needs.
 No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.



your love gives strength be - yond our own to face the dawn.
 A priest who shares our hu - man pain, Christ in - ter - cedes.
 As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we for - give.

This text reflects both the struggle to deal with a deep personal hurt and a keen awareness of biblical language and content. The opening line of stanza two, for example, draws on the root meaning of the Greek word for sin, and the beginning of stanza three alludes to John 8:3-8.

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

CHOCTAW

Shilombish holitopa ma!
 Ishmminti pulla cha
 hatak ilbusha pia ha
 is pi yukpalashke.

CREEK

Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
 ah non ah cha pa kas
 cha fee kee o funnan la kus
 um e ha ta la yus.

NAVAHO

Nizhónígo joobá diits' a'
 yisdáshítinígí,
 lah yóíiyá, k'ad
 shénáhoosdzin,
 doo eesh'íí da nt'ée.

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it "Faith's Review and Expectation." Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–4, John Newton, 1772; stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; Navaho, Albert Tsosie

MUSIC: *Columbian Harmony*, 1829; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1910, alt.

Text Phonetic Transcr. Cherokee, Kiowa, Creek, and Choctaw © Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference;

Phonetic Transcr. Navaho © Albert Tsosie

AMAZING GRACE
CM

Worship Assistant: Fran Higson

Ushers: Wayne and Cindy Ezell, Dave and Kathy Morrison, John and Joanne Rose

Deacon Greeter: Laura Wilson

Last Sunday's Attendance: 65

ONLINE GIVING



Rev. James Kendrick, Pastor
james@oppresby.com

Vernon Humbert, Choir Director/Cellist
Sonja Lewis, Organist
Jo Plunkett, Pianist

Orange Park Presbyterian Church
1905 Park Avenue, Orange Park, Florida 32073
(904)-264-0536, www.orangeparkpres.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY CORNER

WELCOME AND MEMBERSHIP: Welcome to worship at Orange Park Presbyterian Church! There are Connect Cards in the pews for visitor information, communications, and prayer requests (once completed, place in the offering plate). If you would like to talk with Pastor James about becoming a follower of Jesus Christ or becoming a church member, please note that on the card, and he will reach out to answer your questions.

GET CONNECTED: If you would like to receive our weekly newsletter, please provide us with your e-mail address on a blue connect card or send an e-mail to pam@oppresby.com. We would love to keep you current on what's happening at OPPC.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH AND NURSERY: Children's Church on Sunday mornings is for ages 4 through 13 and takes place right after the children's message. Our nursery is open upon request for the younger ones.

INFORMATIONAL MEETING: There will be a short gathering today following worship to review the 2026 Asking Budget of the church and to answer your questions. Please plan to stay for a few extra minutes.

PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER: Help support our preschool ministry by shopping the Charleston Wrap fundraiser. Scan the QR code with the organization code: 29781, view the catalog online, and start shopping or pick up a catalog in the Narthex. All proceeds will directly benefit the preschool facilities. Thank you for your support!



(No participant credit is awarded - only organization credit.)

CHOIR REHEARSAL: The next rehearsal will take place on September 16 at 6:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S MINI RETREAT: The Women's Retreat Committee warmly invites you to "Our Sacred Story – Revisiting the Women of Faith," a special mini-retreat celebrating some of the inspiring women of the Bible and the powerful stories of faith, courage, obedience, perseverance, and trust that they left for us. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church of Green Cove Springs, September 26th, from 9:30 a.m. –

2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided, there is no fee, but to prepare adequately for the luncheon, we would appreciate your letting us know of your interest in attending. Please contact Cindy Ezell to indicate your plans.

HUNGER FIGHT: OPPC is sponsoring a table at the annual Hunger Fight “packing event” at Sacred Heart Catholic Church (7190 Highway 17 South, Fleming Island) on Saturday, October 3, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. We need a total of 10 people to man our food packing table and we still need a few more volunteers. If you would like to join this fun and rewarding event, please see Marcia De Vore. The food packets will be given to local school children on Fridays to provide meals for their families over the weekend.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES: Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m., the Adult Forum meets in The Gathering Place, Room 3, using “Genesis” by AJ Levine (Debbie Pendry). Travelers’ Class meets in The Gathering Place, Room 4, and using a video series “Who is This Man?” by John Ortberg. (Cathy Sanders). The Seekers meet in the church office library, using “New Wine; A Study of Transition in the Book of Acts” by J. Dwight Pentecost (Ricky Kirby).