



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
September 21, 2025 10:30 a.m.
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

THE CHURCH GATHERS IN WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"Amazing Grace"

arr. Hughes

PASTOR'S WELCOME

† THE PEACE OF CHRIST

"In My Life"

#468 (verses 1, 3, 4)

*In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.*

*In your church, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.*

*In your world, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When two or more are gathered,

People: the peace of Christ is with us.

Leader: When the day is sunny, and all is well,

People: the peace of Christ is with us.

Leader: When hearts are hurting, and the healing has not come,

People: the peace of Christ is with us.

Leader: In plenty and in want, we hold fast to hope,

People: for the peace of Christ is with us.

All: Let us worship God!

† OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly God, thank you for calling us into your presence. In this hour of worship, quiet our restless hearts, so that we may embrace your gift of peace. Under your loving gaze, help us to listen to the movement of your Spirit, so that we may take hold of the life that your Son has promised, and rejoice in it each day. Amen.

† HYMN

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

#15

† **CALL TO CONFESSION (from Ps. 85:7-8)**

Let us confess our sin to the God of steadfast love, who grants us salvation and speaks to us with peace.

† **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, we confess that we have turned away from your way of peace. We pray for peace, and yet we choose paths that lead to conflict and separation. We have nursed bitter feelings and repeated unkind stories. When we are provoked with stress, we forget to find health and peace in your sheltering love. Forgive us, we pray. Restore us with your mercy. Teach our hearts, our hands, and our feet to follow in the way of Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace, in whose name we pray.

† **SILENT PRAYER**

† **ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Rom. 5:1-2)**

Leader Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through
: our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have access to this grace
in which we stand. In the strength of this hope, may we have the
courage to pursue God's peace in all that we say and do.

All: **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

† **GLORIA PATRI**

#581

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (from John 6:63, 2 Tim. 3:16)

Holy Spirit, giver of life, come and teach us through this scripture that you have inspired, so that we may be equipped for every good work. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE
READINGS**

**Ps. 34:1-3, 11-14 (Responsive)
1 Tim. 2:1-7**

**O. T. Page 508
N. T. Page 208**

SERMON

"Seek Peace, and Pursue It"

Rev. Sandra Hedrick

† **HYMN**

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

#753

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of 1967)**

God the Holy Spirit fulfills the work of reconciliation in human life. The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which we are reconciled to God and to one another. God enables us to receive forgiveness as we forgive one another and to enjoy the peace

The new life takes shape in a community in which we know that God loves and accepts us in spite of what we are. We therefore accept ourselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

† **Doxology and Prayer of Dedication** #606

† HYMN *“I’ve Got Peace like a River”* #623

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† All those who are able, please stand.

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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 Sandra about becoming a church member, please note that on the card, and she will reach out to you to answer your questions.

BULLETIN IMAGE: “Christ Calming the Storm on Lake Tiberias” (1517) is a hand-colored woodcut print by Hans Schäufelein (1480-1540-ca., German). A highly prolific printmaker, Schäufelein made most of the 150 woodcuts for a 1507 collection of New Testament passages. He was influenced by Albrecht Dürer and worked in his studio for many years.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH AND NURSERY: Children’s Church is for ages 4 through 13 and takes place right after the children’s message. Our nursery is open for the younger ones. To help with one (or both) of these ministries, talk with Nursery Coordinator Laura Wilson or Children’s Church Coordinator Laura Maierhoffer.

“SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT”: Peace is our theme today as we worship and enjoy lunch together (sandwiches, salads and ice cream). All are welcome!

CHOIR PRACTICE: The choir will meet at 6:30 p.m. on October 1 and 8.

PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER (ENDS TOMORROW): Flyers for our preschool fundraiser are available in the narthex. Proceeds will fund upgraded playground equipment.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING: On World Communion Sunday (October 5), we will receive a special offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice locally and across the world. OPPC and the presbytery each retain 25%, and the PC(USA) receives the rest for its own peacemaking efforts.

FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY: On October 12 we will celebrate Christian faith formation with worship, a luncheon and information about all the ways to plug in to the many opportunities at the church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES: Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m., the Adult Forum meets in The Gathering Place, Room 3, using the Bible and studying “The Heidelberg Catechism” by Gary Hansen, which is part of the PCUSA “Being Reformed” curriculum (Debbie Pendry). Travelers’ Class meets in The Gathering Place, Room 4, and is studying “Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi” by Amy-Jill Levine (Cathy Sanders). The Seekers meet in the church office library and are using “The Parables of Jesus” by J. Dwight Pentecost (Ricky Kirby).

Psalm 34:1-3, 11-14

I will bless the Lord at all times;
 his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
 let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me,
 and let us exalt his name together.

Come, O children, listen to me;
 I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
Which of you desires life
 and covets many days to enjoy good?
Keep your tongue from evil
 and your lips from speaking deceit.
Depart from evil, and do good;
 seek peace, and pursue it.

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