

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Orange Park Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 27, 2026 • Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

"God Himself is With Us"

Neande (1680)

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord! The Lord hears the cries of the people.

People: Give thanks to the Lord!

Leader: The works of the Lord are great. Remember what God has done.

People: Give thanks to the Lord!

Leader: God has done miracles, and the Lord always remembers God's covenant.

People: Give thanks to the Lord! Glory and praise is due the Lord.

All: Come, let us worship God!

Opening Prayer

* **Hymn (#441)**

"Hear the Good News of Salvation"

Nettleton

CELEBRATING GOD'S GRACE

Call to Confession

Confession of Sin (Unison)

Gracious God, we have sought after things, but we have not sought after you. We have expected generosity, but we have not shown generosity. We have not been gracious or grateful. We have failed to remember all that you have done. Forgive us and fill our hearts with gratitude. Help us to share our gifts and strengthen our legs so that we can run after you, O God. In Jesus' name we pray. 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 Psalm 25:1-10

- * **Hymn** (#366) *"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"* Hyfrydol

Second Reading Matthew 21:23-32

Sermon *"An Open Invitation"* Rev. Susan Takis

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

- * **Affirmation of Faith** (Unison) *"The Apostles' Creed"*
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.
- * **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're A Fellowship of Believers"

Althouse

* **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** (#761) *"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"*

Beecher

* **Charge & Benediction**

* **Postlude** *"God Be With You"*

Tomer

Psalm 25:1-10 (NRSVue)

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right
and teaches the humble his way.
All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Matthew 21: 23-32 (NRSVue)

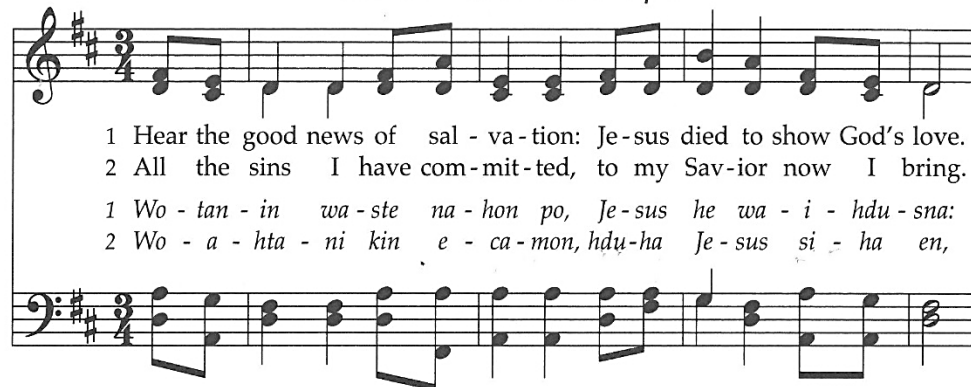
When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

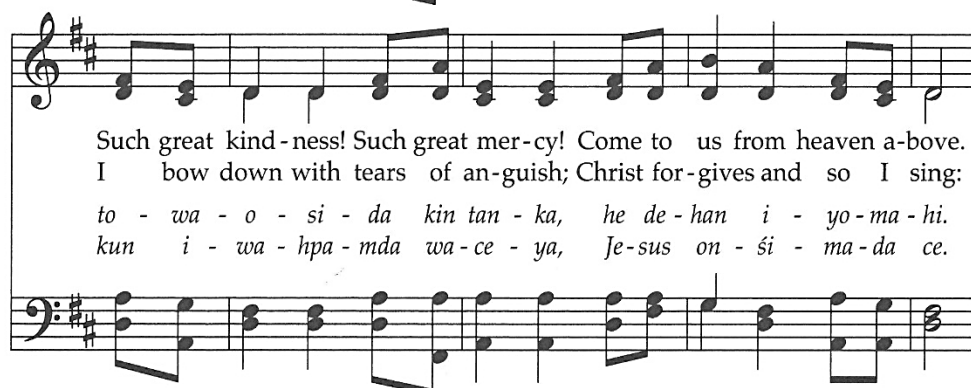
Orange Park Presbyterian Church
1905 Park Avenue
Orange Park, FL 32073
904-264-0536



Hear the Good News of Salvation 441

Wotanin waste nahon po


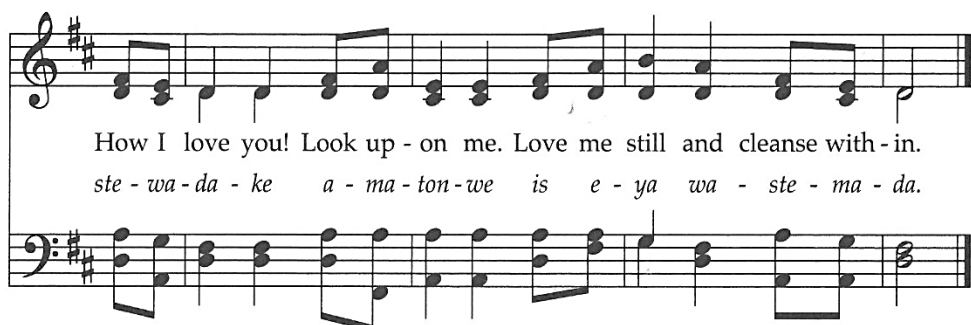
1 Hear the good news of sal - va - tion: Je - sus died to show God's love.
 2 All the sins I have com - mit - ted, to my Sav - ior now I bring.
 1 Wo - tan - in wa - ste na - hon po, Je - sus he wa - i - hdu - sna:
 2 Wo - a - hta - ni kin e - ca - mon, hdu - ha Je - sus si - ha en,



Such great kind - ness! Such great mer - cy! Come to us from heaven a - bove.
 I bow down with tears of an - guish; Christ for - gives and so I sing:
 to - wa - o - si - da kin tan - ka, he de - han i - yo - ma - hi.
 kun i - wa - hpa - mda wa - ce - ya, Je - sus on - si - ma - da ce.



Je - sus Christ, how much I love you! Je - sus Christ, you save from sin!
 Je - sus Christ wa - ste - wa - da - ka, Je - sus Christ ni - ma - yan: han, wa -



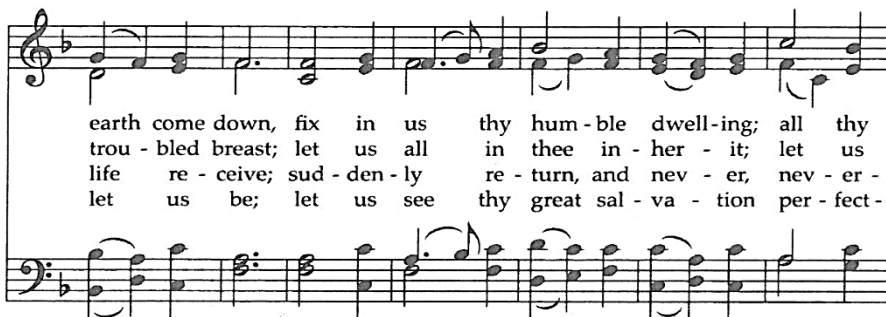
How I love you! Look up - on me. Love me still and cleanse with - in.
 ste - wa - da - ke a - ma - ton - we is e - ya wa - ste - ma - da.

This text, originally appearing in four stanzas, was written by the first Native American Dakota to be ordained to the Presbyterian ministry and was published in the Dakota hymnal he edited. Both the Dakota and English versions have been associated with this shape note tune.

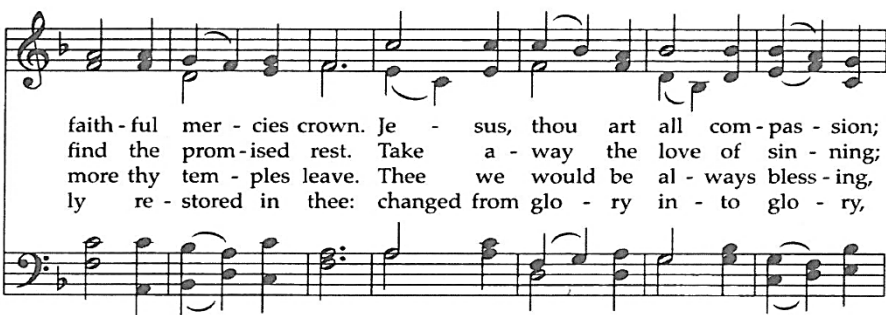
366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Called as Partners in Christ's Service 761



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



This hymn is a celebration of mutuality and diversity as well as a challenge to the Christian community to live out a ministry of reconciliation and inclusion. This 20th-century text is set to a 19th-century tune named for the noted pastor and preacher Henry Ward Beecher.

Worship Assistant: Ray Smith

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

Deacon Greeter: Sherry Miller

ONLINE GIVING



Last Sunday's Attendance: 66

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.

PLEDGE CARDS: How is God calling you to support the church financially this year? Pledge cards are in the bulletin today and will be again next Sunday so that you may provide that information. Alternatively, you may use the confidential electronic form in next week's newsletter to make your pledge. We understand that circumstances may change and a pledge is simply a thoughtful intention and estimate, but they are invaluable in planning our ministry and mission with greater clarity and confidence. Thank you!

LUNCH TODAY: Please join us for our "Season of Giving" luncheon TODAY after worship. Come enjoy the food, the folks, and the fellowship! We will have sandwiches, sides, and desserts. We look forward to seeing you there.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY: October 4 is World Communion Sunday and when all of God's people gather around the Table to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The World Communion Special Offering of the PCUSA taken that day reflects the oneness of the church by supporting racial and gender justice, peacemaking efforts, global witness and interfaith relations. Contributing to this special offering is a way Presbyterians show their love for God and help all God's children live into the fullness of the prophet Micah's words: "to do justice and love kindness." See the enclosed insert to learn about the many ways this offering

encourages reconciliation and what it means to belong to a global, connected church shaped by God's endless love. When contributing, please make your check payable to OPPC and notate "World Communion Offering."

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).

Mission Report for 2026

In gratitude for God's grace, these are some of the ways we have used the human and financial resources God has given us to serve our community and the world in 2026 to date. We also provide gathering space for eight community nonprofits.

Children and Families

Preschool - provided a Christian learning environment for students and families, donated \$300 for school supplies

Young Life Capernaum - hosted a Rock and Roll themed party with pizza and games, donated \$600 for Camp Scholarships

BASCA- donated \$300 for programs for special needs adults

Laundromat project- \$260 to purchase gift cards, breakfast bars and water for clients of Suds Above laundromat

Miriam's Basket - donated quilts for children entering emergency foster care and sponsored their September fundraiser for \$250

Beyond 90 – donated and packed food supplies for immigrant and refugee families, donated diapers-\$250

Kim's Open Door - coordinated and sponsored Montgomery Camp Day for immigrant and refugee youth, with two other churches

Seeds of Love - donated/packed backpacks for Clay students, donated \$300

Clay Behavioral Health -donated \$350 for youth counseling, sent appreciation gifts to counselors

Food and Housing

Mercy Support Services –donated \$1800 to address poverty self-sufficiency and \$200 for their fundraiser

Launched the “Meals on Wheels” food delivery ministry

Clothes Closet & Food Pantry donated food from weekly food drives and food and funds from Souper Bowl of Caring

The Church Universal

PC(USA) Special Offerings – forwarded donations from “The Joy Fund”

Montgomery Center – supported the “Adopt a Summer Staff” program-\$50

Because International- donated \$200 toward shoes for children

DEMP- \$250 for annual event for abused/trafficked women

Cuban Church- \$1,100 used to purchase food, medicine, and supplies for three churches