



Be strong
and  COURAGEOUS

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

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THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Presbytery of Transylvania Spring Meeting

May 16, 2026

10:00 a.m.

✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

Welcome

Rev. Bill Pollack

Prelude

Max Jackson

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Diederik Buxtehude

† **Call to Worship**

Mitch Hall

President, First Presbyterian Church

L: Christ is calling, inviting, urging and wooing: Come and follow Me!

P: Let us set aside our worry and fear, our busyness and competing agendas to respond to Christ's call.

L: Christ offers us the opportunity to walk with Him, to come to know His heart more deeply day by day.

P: Nothing is more precious than opening our hearts to God, who fills us with love.

L: Christ grants us the privilege of working alongside Him in our Father's business.

P: There is no higher call and no greater joy than making a difference in the kingdom of God.

L: Come, let us worship the One who calls us to follow!

ALL: We worship in joy, in gratitude, in praise: Jesus Christ is Lord of all!

† **Hymn of Praise**

#307

God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory,
on Thy people pour Thy power;
crown Thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore.

Let the gift of Thy salvation
be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving Thee whom we adore,
serving Thee whom we adore.

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession

Oh God, how fear compels us. It drives so many of the decisions we make each day. It keeps us awake at night and full of worry by day. The world tells us to be afraid, but that is in such contrast to the command You have given us so many times in Your Word. Do not be afraid. You've said it over and over, and yet we confess that we still fear. Lord, release us from fear. Let us trust fully in Your promise that You are always with us. Replace our concerns with Your peace. Amen.

† Assurance of Pardon

† Response

#245 (3)

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!
Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

✠ We Listen to God's Word ✠

Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: Joshua 1:1–9

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses's assistant, saying, ²“My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. ³Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. ⁴From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. ⁵No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous, for you shall lead this people to possess the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. ⁷Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. ⁹I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

L: The Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 37 (tune: Winchester New)

#706

Commit Your Way to God the Lord

Commit your way to God the Lord;
your cause will shine as bright as fire;
delight to do God's holy word
and you shall find what you desire.

Be still before the Lord and wait,
and do not fret when wrong succeeds;
refrain from anger, turn from hate,
for God will punish evil deeds.

Salvation comes from God alone:
the faithful know their help is sure;
to heaven, all our needs are known,
and in God's strength we are secure.

Commit your way to God the Lord;
to peace and truth and grace aspire;
then mercy shall be your reward;
God's promises, your heart's desire.

† **The Gospel Lesson**

Luke 24:44–49 (NRSV)

Then He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about Me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."

⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures,

⁴⁶ and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what My Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

L: This is the Holy Gospel of Christ **P: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Rev. Bill Pollack

With His Presence, Power and Peace

✦ **We Respond to God's Word** ✦

† **Hymn of Response**

Have Thine Own Way

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Thou art the potter, I am the clay.

Mold me and make me after Thy will,
while I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Search me and try me, Savior today!

Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now,
as in Thy presence humbly I bow.



Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me I pray!
Power, all power, surely is Thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me!

† **Affirmation of Faith**

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Offering Acknowledgement

Community Kitchen, Ashland

† **Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

† Prayer of Dedication

Special Music

*John Ferguson
Max Jackson, Organist*

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

✠ The Lord's Supper ✠

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right . . . Hear us, gracious God, as we join creation's song and sing Your eternal praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

. . . With thanksgiving, we celebrate the good news bringing great joy in celebration of an empty tomb as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. (2x)

Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit . . . Through Christ, all glory and honor are Yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (sins)

The Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People *Rev. Jennifer Johnson, Rev. Bill Pollack*
*(We receive Holy Communion through intinction this morning.
Please come to the table with hearts open to God's leading.)*

Prayer After Communion

✠ **We Are Sent in God's Name** ✠

† **Hymn of Sending**

#269

Lead on O King Eternal

Lead on, O King eternal, the day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest Your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation Your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace.
For not with swords' loud clashing or roll of stirring drums
with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal; we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning wherever Your face appears.
Your cross is lifted o'er us, we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might.

Postlude

Max Jackson

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Helmut Walcha

† **Charge & Benediction**

† Standing if you are able.

To visit the church website, scan the code below.



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