

September 8, 2024
10:30 a.m. | Chapel
16th Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering Around the Word

Lighting of the Candles

Jesus is the Light of the World!

Prelude

The Gift of Love

Hal H. Hopson, Arr. by John Carter

Welcome and Announcements

*As the Friendship Folder is passed in your pew, please record your attendance in worship today.
For our guests, please enter your name and contact information so we may welcome you.*

Did You Know? *Youth*

Craig Cunningham

✠ Call to Worship *(responsively)*

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Marilyn Davis

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.

**The rich and the poor have this in common:
the LORD is the maker of them all.**

**Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.**

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

**Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;
for the LORD pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.**

✠ Opening Hymn 772

Live Into Hope

**Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!**

**Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.**

**Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.**

**Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.**

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Being Renewed in Grace

Call to Confession

God knows us completely. God knows our hearts and discerns our thoughts. Let us then confess what we carry within us that does not honor God or God's path of righteousness.

(Time for Silent Confession)

✠ Please stand in body or in spirit.

Please silence your cell phones during worship.

Prayer of Confession

Presbyterian Outlook Liturgy

Holy God,

although we honor you with our words and worship, our hearts are often far from you. We are quick to judge, quick to exclude, quick to put others down instead of building them up. Forgive us, God. Help us amend our ways. Help us embrace the inclusive love you graciously offer us and expect us to offer others. Amen.

✦ Assurance of Pardon

Book of Common Worship

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

✦ Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Anthem

The Wideness of God's Mercy

Arr. by Sheldon Curry

The Chancel Choir

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice, which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner and more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in His blood.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n;
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment giv'n.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we should take Him at His word,
And our life would be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

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Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Marilyn Davis

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find wisdom, and in your will discover your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading

James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17

Marilyn Davis

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please,"

while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

God's word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Blessing the Children

Children are invited to come forward at this time for a blessing before going to children's worship in the narthex.

Children: God be with you here.

Congregation: God be with you there.

Gospel Reading

Mark 7:24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go — the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The Gospel of our Lord and Savior.

Thanks be to you, O Christ!

✦ Hymn 205

Live in Charity

Choir: Ubi caritas et amor,
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

All: **Live in charity and steadfast love.
Live in charity; God will dwell with you.**

(Repeat Choir, then All)

Solo: May your love, O Jesus Christ, be foremost in our lives.
Let us love one another as God has loved us.
The love of God in Jesus Christ bears eternal joy.

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Responding to the Word

✦ **Affirmation of Faith** *(in unison)*

from Romans 8

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.

Offering Invitation

We have more to offer than we recognize or realize. God has given us abundant gifts. Let us faithfully respond to our generous God, by presenting our tithes and offerings.

Offertory

There is a Balm in Gilead

Arr. by Thomas Keesecker

✦ **Doxology** *(all singing)*

**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.**

✦ **Prayer of Dedication**

St. Martins Presbyterian Church, Christchurch

God of new life,
out of the abundance of our lives
we offer these gifts to you.
Through your blessing and our willingness to share,
may these offerings become a source for hope and love
in this church family, and in the community beyond us,
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People *and* The Lord's Prayer

We pray for each other, the church, our community, and the world saying, Lord in your mercy,
hear our 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Bearing and Following the Word Into the World

✦ Sending Hymn 762

When the Poor Ones

**When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers,
When the thirsty water give unto us all,
When the crippled in their weakness strengthen others,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.**

**When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,
When they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,
When we love though hate at times seems all around us,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.**

**When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
When our lips can speak no words other than true,
When we know that love for simple things is better,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.**

**When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
When we learn how to make peace instead of war,
When each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.**

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✦ Charge and Blessing

✦ Postlude

Prelude in G Major

J. S. Bach

*The ushers this morning are Larry Brown and Spencer Olsen.
The greeter this morning is Jim Pope.
The Stephen Minister this morning is Gail Steyer.*

The Worship Leaders this morning are:

*Rev. George Tatro, Senior Pastor
Heidi Chinnock, Director of Music Ministries and Organist
Marilyn Davis, Liturgist
Ross Johnston and Steve Navarro, guitars*

Upcoming Events at JCPC

*As the Friendship Folder is passed in your pew, please record your attendance in worship today.
For our guests, please enter your name and contact information so we may welcome you.*

2024-2025 Open Enrollment for Preschool is underway | jcpcusa.org/preschool

Text/E-mail Scam Alert

Please be aware that none of the church staff will ask you for money or gift cards.
If you receive this message from anyone, please delete it and do not act upon it.

JCPC LUNCH BUNCH

Alessio's Ristorante (6955 McGinnis Ferry Road | Johns Creek Ga. 30097)
Will join together for lunch on September 15, 2024 following worship

Loving Someone With Addiction Family Seminar

Saturday, September 28 | 9:30-3:00 | Great Hall | \$15 per person (lunch provided)





Session Elders

Class of 2024

Aisha Furtado (Youth Elder), Education Ministry Team
Dawn Melin, Mission Ministry Team
Zach Myers, Connecting Ministry Team
Rich Shuler, Stewardship Ministry Team
Tom Traylor, Clerk of Session and Stewardship Ministry Team and Personnel

Class of 2025

Roy Davey, Worship Ministry Team
Marilyn Davis, Worship Ministry Team
Debi Doverspike, Mission Ministry Team
Vivek Furtado, Youth Ministry Team

Class of 2026

Craig Cunningham, Youth Ministry Team
John Gutekunst, Education Ministry Team
Alice Ann Nilsen, Caring Ministry Team
Jim Pope, Stewardship Ministry Team and Personnel

Name Tags for Sundays

Please check on the round table in the Welcome Center for your name tag either before Sunday School or Worship. They will be in alphabetical order. If you don't have one, there are adhesive name tags you can use. There will be a clipboard with a list where you can add your name, and a name tag will be available for you the following Sunday. Please return your name tags to the table before leaving the church today.

Special note about our cameras

Welcome to worship! For many years, JCPC has recorded its worship services for those who are homebound or absent from worship. We are now able to Livestream the service from the worship hour. The worship leaders and the first few rows of the worship space are visible in these videos. The back rows are not visible in the Livestream or recording. Thank you for being with us this morning, and we hope you'll watch online when you can't be with us in person.

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