

— THE —  
**GEORGETOWN**  
**PRESBYTERIAN**  
— CHURCH —

Sunday, May 12, 2024, 11 a.m.

Special Music Sunday

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PRELUDE                      Fanfare on McKee                      Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

WELCOME                      Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
   **People: And also with you.**

*Both the words and the music to the hymn “At the River” (No. 375 in our hymnal) were composed by Robert Lowry, a Baptist pastor, in 1864. The tune later caught the attention of two prominent American composers, Charles Ives, and Aaron Copland. The later included “At the River” in a collection titled “Old American Songs.” He later gave his former student, Raymond Wilding-White the job of expanding the vocal line to SATB choir, while keeping Copland’s characteristically simple yet expansive piano accompaniment. Copland, who’s music perhaps more than any other composer seems to capture in its melodies and the openness of its harmonies the optimism and possibility of the American spirit. It’s a musical style that seems ideally suited for this beautiful text, based in part on Revelation 22:1, a foretaste of the crystal clear river of water of life flowing from the throne of God. This arrangement has been sung on many occasions, including the memorial concerts for Copland and Leonard Bernstein.*

INTROIT                      At the River                      Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

Shall we gather by the river,	Soon we’ll reach the shining river,
Where bright angel’s feet have trod,	Soon our pilgrimage will cease,
With its crystal tide forever	Soon our happy hearts will quiver
Flowing by the throne of God?	With the melody of peace.

Yes, we’ll gather by the river,  
The beautiful, the beautiful river,  
Gather with the saints by the river  
That flows by the throne of God.

◆ *You are invited to stand*

*As a courtesy to others, please turn off your cell phone and refrain from flash photography during the service.*

CALL to WORSHIP *(from the Iona Community in Scotland)*

Leader: The world belongs to God

All: the earth and all its people

Leader: Love and faith come together

All: justice and peace join hands

Leader: If Christ's disciples keep silent

All: these stones would shout aloud

Leader: Creating God, Maker of all:

All: be with us this day

Leader: Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor:

All: be with us this day

Leader: Holy Spirit, Breath of life:

All: be with us this day

*There is some mystery around the author/composer of the text and tune of our opening hymn, "How Firm A Foundation." Several names have been suggested as the authors. During the American Civil War, both Northern and Southern soldiers could be heard singing it; a testament to how God bridges the gap between all peoples.*

◆ HYMN 463

How Firm a Foundation

*Foundation*

PRAYER of CONFESSION *(from Latin American Alliance of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches)*

Leader: Let us pray:

Living God, you unsettle us because you made all living beings in your image. Free us from insensitivity to our neighbor.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Lord, we are horrified at watching some sing songs of joy while millions cry out in pain. Free us from insensitivity to the suffering of others.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Just God, wake us from our comforts while others suffer and die in an unjust economic system that rules the world. Help us see your world through the eyes of Jesus Christ.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

*(continued...)*

Lord God, we live in the shadow of a global financial empire which insists it is the only system that can advance societies, yet it converts everything into commodities, as a profit or loss, benefitting few at the expense of most people. Shine light on the reality of your creation through Jesus' eyes.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Creator God, this economic system plunders earth's treasures, destroys species daily, and threatens the ecosystem of those creatures who depend on it for survival. Liberate your earth.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Only in the light of your presence, O God, and thanks to the promises of life abundant given by Jesus, are we willing to look at what we have done. Forgive us, and unite us in a way that leads to justice and truth.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(silence)*

ASSURANCE of  
PARDON

Leader: Friends believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen!**

◆ GLORIA PATRI  
*Glory to God, #581*

**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.**

TIME *with* CHILDREN

Rev. Jessica Tate

*The tune of our second hymn was adapted from an African American Spiritual melody by Henry Thacker Burleigh. Henry's maternal grandfather, Hamilton Waters, paid \$55 for his and his mother's freedom in Maryland in 1832. Hamilton sang plantation songs to his grandson Henry, passing on the music that Henry would later make known around the world in his work as a singer and arranger. When he arranged the tune for "In Christ There is No East or West," Burleigh named it "McKee" after Elmer McKee, the rector of St. George's Episcopal Church in New York City.*

◆ HYMN 317

In Christ There Is No East or West

McKee

PRAYER *for* ILLUMINATION

Deacon Aran Clair

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

*Many composers throughout history have set the “Prayer of Saint Francis” to music. It’s perhaps not surprising that the “Prayer of Saint Francis” has tempted many composers throughout history to write musical settings. The text is warm, aspirational, hopeful, and invites musical settings. René Clausen is an acclaimed American composer and choral conductor. Clausen’s setting employs shifts in voicing, accompaniment and harmony to paint the affect of sections of the text.*

ANTHEM

The Prayer of Saint Francis

René Clausen (b. 1953)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.  
Where there is injury, help me to pardon.  
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.  
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.  
Where there is sorrow, let me bring joy.  
O Lord, master divine,  
grant that I not so much seek to be consoled as to console,  
as to understand, to love,  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
and in pardoning that we are pardoned.  
For in dying we are born to eternal life.  
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Amen.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am 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.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

*The composer of the hymn tune “Charlestown” is unknown. The tune first appeared in print in The United States Sacred Harmony, 1799, a collection compiled by Amos Pilsbury, a silversmith, schoolteacher, and clerk in the Presbyterian Church. Many subsequent compilations of hymns (Wyeth’s Repository, Kentucky Harmony, Tennessee Harmony, and others) were influenced by Pilsbury’s 1799 publication.*

◆ HYMN 351

All Who Love and Serve Your City

*Charlestown*

◆ DECLARATION of  
FAITH

*(from Presbyterian  
Church (USA) Brief  
Statement of Faith)*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the mighty waters; they saw the deeds of the Lord, his wondrous works in the deep. For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. They mounted up to heaven, they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their calamity; they reeled and staggered like drunkards, and were at their wits' end. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out from their distress; he made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad because they had quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven. Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. Let them extol him in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

*Daniel E. Gawthrop, born 1949 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is an American composer, primarily of choral music. "In What Torn Ship" comes from a collection of two unaccompanied choral motets. It is a setting of a text by John Donne, the English writer and Anglican cleric who is now considered to be the preeminent metaphysical poet of his time. He was born in 1572 to Roman Catholic parents, when practicing that religion was illegal in England. His work is distinguished by its emotional and sonic intensity and its capacity to plumb the paradoxes of faith, human and divine love, and the possibility of salvation. This composition was a favorite of former longtime music director, John Lintner.*

ANTHEM

In What Torn Ship

Daniel Gawthrop (b. 1949)

In what torn ship soever I embark,  
 That ship shall be the emblem of thy ark;  
 What sea soever swallow me, swallow me,  
 that flood shall be to me an emblem of thy blood;  
 Though thou with clouds of anger do disguise thy face;  
 yet through that mask I know those eyes,  
 which, though they turn away sometimes,  
 they never will despise.  
 I sacrifice this island unto thee,  
 and all whom I loved there, and who loved me;  
 when I have put our seas twixt them and me,  
 Put thou thy sea betwixt my sins and thee.

PRAYERS of the  
PEOPLE  
and 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.**

*Quiet and relatively short in duration, Clausen's "Set Me As a Seal" has become a 20th century choral classic, often selected for performance at contests and festivals. The piece emerged out of deep tragedy and loss. After three miscarriages, the composer, René and his wife were expecting and all was proceeding well, until a doctor's mistake during a routine procedure at 6 1/2 months caused the death of their child. René went home and poured his grief onto the page, composing this motet in about 20 minutes. Based on the poetry of Song of Solomon, describing the love between Christ (the Groom) and His bride (the church) as a love that will stand fast when the tides of sorrow overwhelm. The music, with its softly clashing dissonances and gently unfolding melodies, paints a serene and tender picture of love in Christ, strong and living, even in the midst of pain, sorrow, and even death.*

OFFERING and  
OFFERTORY

Set Me As a Seal

René Clausen (b. 1953)

Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm,  
for love is strong as death.  
Many waters cannot quench love;  
neither can the floods drown it.

◆ DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER of DEDICATION  
(The Romero Prayer)

*As with all of the hymn tunes we sing today, the composer of the tune Beach Spring is not known. The tune first appeared in 1844 in a collection of tunes called "The Sacred Harp." Though it first appeared set to the text "Come ye sinners, poor and needy" the tune, perhaps owing to the memorable singability of its melody has been used to set dozens of different texts. In our own hymnal, it appears three times to different texts.*

◆ HYMN 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Beach Spring

## ◆ BENEDICTION

*Copland, in seeking to establish a uniquely American voice in his compositions, turned to the wellspring of American folk music. He drew ideas from a wide variety of sources, including cowboy music of the West, Mexican dance hall rhythms, and the music of various American religious traditions. "Zion's Walls" originated as a camp meeting song in Georgia, first notated and published in 1855 by John G. McCurry. It became part of the tradition of Southern folk hymnody known as "shape note." In Copland's search for American folk music, he found a book that included "Zion's Walls" and he incorporated it, first into his second set of "Old American Songs" (1952) and then his opera "The Tender Land" (1954). In this time of heightened conflict between Palestine and Israel, there is understandable sensitivity around the word "Zion" and its modern meaning. The original authors of this text, writing forty plus years before the establishment of the modern Zionist movement, invoked the metaphor of Zion as a broad and inclusive invitation to all people to sing praises and imagine a future in the Promised Day of God.*

POSTLUDE

Zion's Walls

Aaron Copland

Come fathers and mothers,  
Come sisters and brothers,  
Come join us in singing the praises of Zion.  
O fathers, don't you feel determined  
To meet within the walls of Zion?  
We'll shout and go round  
The walls of Zion.

### *About Today's Service*

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**Flowers:** The flowers in the sanctuary today are given by Laura Speer in memory of Doris and Walter Jakob

**Ushers:** Rick Del Sontro (Captain), Veronique Dupont, Eric Durbin, Claire Hunn, Lucy Coble Joyce, Michele Tate Wilson, and Jimmy Wilson

**Punch Bunch:** Please join us in the Georgetown Room following worship for Punch Bunch hosted by James Ferguson, Margaret Frist, and Katy McBride in celebration of Mother's Day

**Children's Worship Leaders:** Joanne Tate, Margaret Frist, Katie Novaria, and Jennifer Krusius

**Nursery Caregivers:** Gamage Perera, Swarna Nawarantha, and Udeni Passaramudalige



# Weekly Calendar

*Sunday, May 12*

9:45am Nursery, Adult Ed  
10:00am Sunday School  
10:45am Singing with Ms. Regina  
11:00am Worship\*\*  
12:00pm Punch Bunch  
5:00pm Yoga\*

*Tuesday, May 14*

11:00am GPC Staff Meeting  
6:30pm Young Adult Dinner and Discussion

*Thursday, May 16*

6:30pm Session Meeting

*Sunday, May 19*

9:45am Nursery, Adult Ed  
10:00am Sunday School, New Parents Brunch  
10:45am Singing with Ms. Regina  
11:00am Worship\*\*  
12:00pm Punch Bunch  
12:15pm New Members Conference  
5:00pm Yoga\*

*\*Event will be conducted virtually.*

*\*\*Both virtual and in-person options will be available.*

## Announcements

### GPC New Parents Brunch!

Our next gathering for GPC's new and new (ish) parents will be on Sunday, May 19th in the GPC Courtyard at 10 am (weather permitting). This event is primarily for parents of nursery aged children, but all are welcome. Join us for fellowship, a continental breakfast, bubbles and music led by Miss. Regina! Please RSVP with Pastor Meghan, Sally McLeod, Natalia Sitnikov or Kate Gilchrist if you plan to join us!

### GPC Bible Sunday on May 19

Presbyterians believe that by hearing and studying the sacred stories of our faith tradition, we can begin to know of God's faithfulness, constant love and eternal goodness. We celebrate that God's Word is spoken to us at all ages and stages of our life. On Bible Sunday, all PreK-4, 2nd graders, 5th graders, 8th grade and 12th graders receive their own age appropriate Bible or Hymnal.

### Save the Date!

How has Jesus Christ's example and teachings influenced your career and life choices? What gospel passages have influenced the decisions you have made and the paths you have taken? You are invited to join the GPC Intergenerational Men's Ministry for a meal and a discussion on Tuesday, May 28th from 6:30-9 pm at GPC. Please contact David Howe or Pastor Meghan for more information or to RSVP.

### GPC is looking for a new Director of Children's Ministry!

GPC has a vibrant community of children and families who worship, learn and serve together. We are looking for a qualified and compassionate candidate to lead this ministry in collaboration with GPC staff and volunteers on a part time basis. For more information or to apply for the job, please contact Aaron Davis (aaroncdavis@gmail.com), Chair of the Children's and Family Ministry Committee or Pastor Meghan.

## GPC Young Adult Dinner and Discussion

Join us for our next Dinner and Discussion at GPC on Tuesday, May 14th from 6:30-8:30 pm. We'll focus on the theme of faith journeys through a hands on activity and guided conversation. Please contact Deacon Katie Strohm or Pastor Meghan for more information.

### Next Week in Adult Education

#### Stewardship/Planned Giving Workshop

In estate planning, there is a very clear pathway to pass on our valuables to the people and places we love. An industry of experienced professionals helps us with the legal process. But what about passing on our faith and values? These make the real legacy; these are the greater gift. Yet there is no boilerplate process for that. Join us in Adult Education on May 19th for a conversation led by Elder Karl Mattison on discerning our legacy; then sharing it with the people and places we love dearly. Karl is the Vice President for Planned Giving Resources at the Presbyterian Foundation and an elder at GPC.

## Worship

[gtownpres.org/worship](http://gtownpres.org/worship)

Welcome to Georgetown Presbyterian Church, where people have gathered to worship for over 240 years. We worship each Sunday at 11:00am.

**On Memorial Day weekend we will shift worship to 10:00 am and it will remain at that time through Labor Day weekend.**

### Sabbatical Preachers

May 19 - Emma Marshall

May 26 - Rev. Meghan Brown

## Learn

[gtownpres.org/learn](http://gtownpres.org/learn)

### Children's Programming on Sunday Morning Education Hour 10:00 - 11:00 am

*Sunday School:* Children ages 3.5 - fifth grade are invited to attend as often as you are able at 10:00 am in the third floor classrooms. The Sunday School teachers will walk children down to the chapel for singing at the end of class.

*Singing with Ms. Regina:* Children of all ages are welcome to sing along with us in the chapel beginning at 10:45. Parents are invited to stay and sing together.

### Worship Hour 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Young Children and Worship:* Following the Time with Children in the worship service, children in PreK-2nd grade are led upstairs to participate in this Montessori-based worship program. Parents should plan to walk upstairs to pick their children up from the classrooms.

*Children's Church:* Following the Time with Children in the worship service, children in 3rd - 5th grade are led to the chapel to participate in age-appropriate worship, led by one of our pastors and Ms. Regina. Children are dismissed back to the sanctuary or to punch bunch when Children's Church is over.

### Youth Group

Youth Group meets a couple of Sunday evenings each month. If you're interested in receiving emails about youth group programming, please reach out to Pastor Meghan or Trey Fields ([fieldstreyo@gmail.com](mailto:fieldstreyo@gmail.com)) to be added to the list.

## Serve

[gtownpres.org/serve](http://gtownpres.org/serve)

### Sign Up to Be a Greeter

You may have noticed the smiling faces of GPC's greeters, volunteers who welcome members and visitors each Sunday with a friendly word and a warm handshake (or elbow bump!). This is a great way to meet people in the congregation and help bring warmth and community to our congregation. To volunteer for this fun and important role, visit [gtownpres.org/connect](http://gtownpres.org/connect).

### Georgetown Saturday Suppers

The last Saturday of every month, GPC members meet at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church to serve a hot dinner to 45-60 neighbors who are hungry. We need 10-12 volunteers every last Saturday of the month. Email [info@gtownpres.org](mailto:info@gtownpres.org) if you would like to get involved. To support, visit [gtownpres.org/give](http://gtownpres.org/give).

## Give

[gtownpres.org/give](http://gtownpres.org/give)

Your gifts enable the mission and ministry of this church. To manage a current pledge or make a one-time gift, visit [gtownpres.org/give](http://gtownpres.org/give) or scan the QR code below. To give of your time and talents, visit [gtownpres.org/timeandtalents](http://gtownpres.org/timeandtalents).



## Connect

[gtownpres.org/connect](http://gtownpres.org/connect)

### New Member Conference

Interested in joining GPC? Learn more about membership and what it means to be a Presbyterian at our next New Member Conference on May 19th. Be in touch with Pastor Jessica for more information.

### Requests for Prayers

Scan here or visit [gtownpres.org/connect](http://gtownpres.org/connect) to fill out the care and support form. Responses will go directly to the GPC Care Committee. Thank you for helping us care for yourselves and the broader GPC community.



## Happy Birthday!

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| May 12 | Priscilla Baker<br>Sheldon Ray   |
| May 13 | Laura Speer<br>Kakie Colclough<br>Samantha Costantino<br>Sarah Merritt |
| May 14 | Thomas Tucker<br>Amy Hopper<br>Jim Reese                               |
| May 15 | Jessica Tate   |
| May 16 | Mary Margaret Hart   |
| May 17 | Charlotte Mattison<br>Asher Stroh<br>Franklin VanMeter                 |

# *Serving Our City, United in Christ*

*Welcome to the Georgetown Presbyterian Church*

If you are here for the first time, we extend a special welcome to you. Please take a moment to read through the bulletin which contains important information for the life of this congregation.

- Ushers are wearing red lapel tags and are in the back of the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask them.
- Please join us after worship for refreshments and fellowship in the Georgetown Room.

Children are always welcome!

- Worship bags are available for children who wish to stay in the worship service. Children can pick these up under the bench in the Narthex, and return them after church
- For our youngest children through three years old, nursery care is available upstairs beginning at 9:45am.
- After the Time with Children in the service, children can remain with their families or exit the Sanctuary with our Children's Worship leaders to continue age-appropriate worship. Please feel free to escort your children to their classroom to meet the leaders.

Navigating the Service

- Stars ♦ indicate when you are invited to stand if you are able.
- Bold text indicates that the congregation says this together, in one voice.
- Hymns can be found in the purple hymnals. Bibles are located at the end of the pews. Large print hymnals are available in the back of the Sanctuary.
- We receive communion once a month, and all are welcome.



THE  
GEORGETOWN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

The Georgetown Presbyterian Church has been a steadfast presence in our nation's capital since 1780, ministering to generations of Washingtonians, serving our city, united in Christ. For more of our history, visit [gtownpres.org/us/history](http://gtownpres.org/us/history).

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