
Gathering those who fear they are not enough,
so we may experience grace, wholeness, and renewal as God's beloved.



Image from <https://stmichaelsbythesea.org/blog/2022-epiphany-1/>

We Gather to Praise God

PRELUDE

When Love Is Found

arr. James Biery (b. 1956)

RINGING OF THE BELL

INTROIT

Hear the Glad Sound

Stan Pethel (b. 1950)

WELCOME

Megan Klose

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.

ALL: We are here to quench our thirst.

ONE: Listen, hear God speak.

ALL: We are ready to hear God's life-giving words that will fill our hunger.

ONE: Remember your baptism and rejoice in the life-giving power of the water.

ALL: We remember and celebrate the promises made at our baptism.

ONE: Just as the baptismal font is filled, let the Holy Spirit fill us with God's living water.

ALL: Amen!

*** GATHERING HYMN 463**

How Firm a Foundation

CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Suzanne Martin

ONE: God loves us and calls us each by name. Knowing we will be forgiven and unconditionally loved, let us boldly confess our sins before God.

ALL: In baptism you joined us to Christ in his death that we might be raised with Christ in new life; but we cherish old ways and fail to embrace the risen life of justice, peace, and love. In baptism you united us with all the baptized who confess your name; but we foster division in the church and in our communities. We refuse to live as one people, failing to witness to your reconciling love before the world. In baptism you sent us to serve with compassion all for whom Christ died; but we ignore the suffering of the oppressed and the plight of the poor. In baptism you gave us the Holy Spirit to teach and guide us, but we rely on ourselves and refuse to trust your direction. Lord, have mercy on us. Remember the promises you made to us in baptism, forgive our sinful ways and heal our brokenness. Set us free and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ, that we may be your faithful servants, showing forth your healing love to the world, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Personal prayer in silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Yena Hwang

ONE: Hear the good news: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ lives in power for us, Christ prays for us.

ALL: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

** Please rise in body or spirit*

* GLORY TO GOD 582

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text; adapt. Paul M. Vasile, 2008
MUSIC: Paul M. Vasile, 2008
Text Adapt. and Music © 2008 Paul M. Vasile

GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

* PASSING THE PEACE

Yena Hwang

ONE: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

We Listen for God's Word

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION HYMN 451 (v. 2)

2 O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send - est clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery - thing false will
dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy
will to see. O - pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

TEXT and MUSIC: Clara H. Scott, 1895

OPEN MY EYES
8.8.9.8.8.8.8.4

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 43:1-7

Suzanne Martin

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.*Children ages 4 and up are invited to continue their worship at Godly Play in Room 59.***SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

Yena Hwang

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.**SERMON***You Are My Beloved*

Yena Hwang

We Respond to God's Word*** SERMON HYMN 375***Shall We Gather at the River**** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from the Iona Community Book of Prayer)* Megan Klose

With the whole church, we affirm that we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ, empowered by the spirit. With people everywhere, we affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong. With all creation, we celebrate the miracle and wonder of life, the unfolding purpose of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world. Amen.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER FAITHFULLY

Gary Ewart

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Suzanne Martin

ONE: Lord in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

The Prayers of the People are offered on behalf of and with the congregation, usually by an elder who is currently serving or has previously served on Session. Prayer requests can be sent to Pastors Yena and Megan at prayers@fallschurchurchpresby.org.

Please keep in your prayers:

H-1B visa holders and other immigrants

Theresa Brown, Avery Burns, Allan Capon, Linda Garvelink, Winnie Harris-Zoellner, Ruth Mileham, Ken Waugh, all with continuing health concerns.

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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Please support the mission and ministry of the church with your financial contributions. Offerings can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church office, given online through our secure giving portal (fcpc.breezechms.com/give/online), texted to give at 7037751355, or scanned using the QR code.



OFFERTORY

Gather by the River to Pray arr. Pepper Chaplin (b. 1957)
(Down to the River to Pray and Shall We Gather by the River)

*As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way;
and who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord, show me the way. [repeat]*

O brother, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.

O brother, let's go down, down to the river to pray, down to the river to pray.

*Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by
the throne of God? Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down; grace our spirits will
deliver and provide a robe and crown.*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

*So let's go down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way;
and who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord, show me the way. Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?*

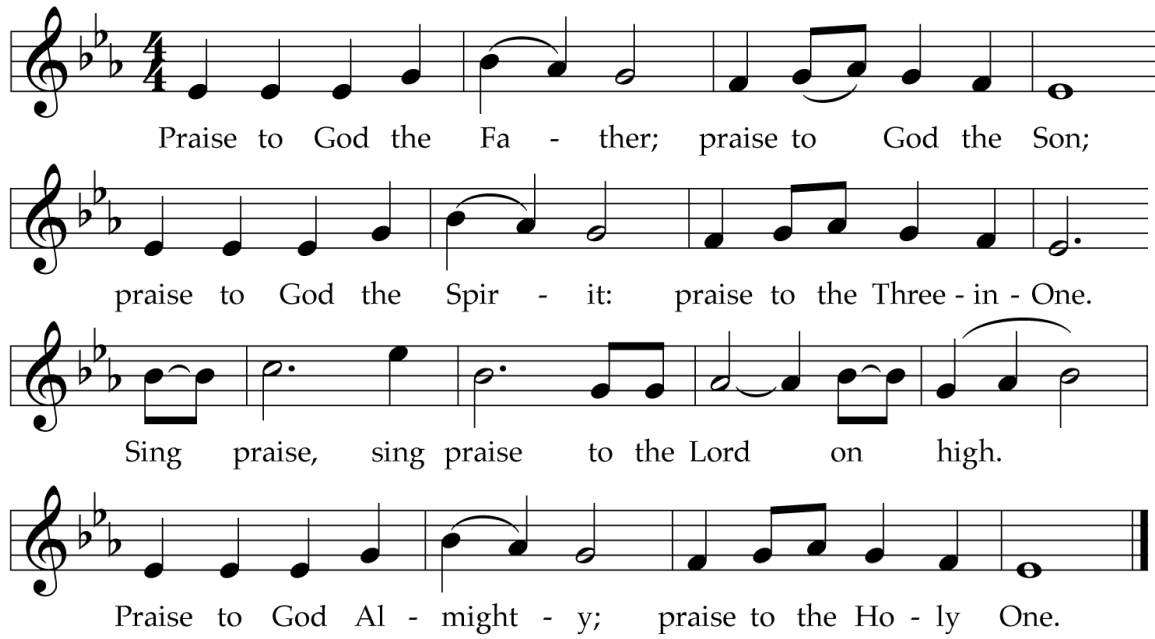
*So let's go down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way; and who shall wear the starry
crown? Good Lord, show me the way. Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will
cease; soon our happy hearts will quiver with melody of peace.*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river that
flows by the throne of God, down to the river to pray, that flows by the throne of God,
down to the river to pray, that flows by the throne.*

I went down to the river to pray, Ere we reach the shining river that flows by the throne of God.

*** DOXOLOGY 605**

Praise to God the Father



Praise to God the Fa - ther; praise to God the Son;
 praise to God the Spir - it: praise to the Three - in - One.
 Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on high.
 Praise to God Al - might - y; praise to the Ho - ly One.

TEXT: Anon.
 MUSIC: Ghanaian melody; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011
 Music Arr. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

DA N'ASE
 Irregular

*** PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Megan Klose

We Are Sent into the World

*** SENDING HYMN 740**

Lead Me, Guide Me

*** CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Yena Hwang

*** CHORAL BENEDICTION**

As We Now This Place Depart

Stan Pethel (b. 1950)

POSTLUDE

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

arr. Charles Converse (1832-1918)

Supporting Us in Worship

Worship Leader

Suzanne Martin

Ushers

Lowell Schuyler, Marsha Schuyler

Audio/Video

Alexi Hawkins

Sexton

Anne Kusterbeck

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Marsha and Lowell Schuyler in appreciation of the wonderful Advent and Christmas music at FCPC.

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Liturgy for this service adapted from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion*,

Kimberly Bracken Long, ed.

A Warm Welcome

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning. Please sign the red welcome pad which can be found at the end of the pew, then pass the pad along to your neighbor.

There are nametag boards outside of the sanctuary side entrance. Please make a nametag and wear it as a sign of hospitality.

Large-print bulletins are available at the sanctuary entrances. Portable electronic assistive listening devices are available in the narthex.

A recording of today's service can be found at www.fallschurchpresby.org/sermon.

If you would like to learn more about our family of faith, please talk to one of the pastors as you exit the sanctuary. More information can be found on our website.

Children in Worship

Children are always welcome in our services. Children's bulletins and coloring sheets are available for children of all ages at each sanctuary entrance. **The Kids' Corner** in the front right of the Sanctuary is a space where children and their grownups can play, read, color, and participate in worship. **Children up to age 4:** Child care is offered in Room 201. Parents may drop off and pick up children throughout this service.

Children aged 4 and up: Godly Play is offered in Room 59 following the first scripture reading.

Fellowship Hour

Please join us in Fellowship Hall following worship to greet your neighbors and enjoy some light refreshments. Hosted by the Community Building Ministry Team.

Announcements

Ives House Information Sessions. After 10 months spent on outreach; research; listening sessions; and meetings with local nonprofits, social service providers, several government entities, architects, builders, and realtors, the Ives House Task Force would like to inform the congregation of our findings. Session members also want to share their recommendation regarding Ives House. Please attend one of these sessions in the parlor to learn more:

- Jan. 12 (after worship)
- Jan. 19 (after worship)
- Jan. 26 (before worship)

Dinner & Concert, Friday, Jan. 17. Join us at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a simple dinner followed by a 7:15 p.m. concert from singer-songwriter Matthew Black. There is no charge for entry, though donations are welcome. If you plan to attend the dinner, please RSVP through the link in the Friday egram.

New Members Class, Jan. 26. If you are new to FCPC and would like to explore what it means to become a member of this church, please join us Sunday, Jan. 26, at 11:15 a.m. in the Conference Room. Pastors Yena and Megan will lead an informal session and answer your questions about the work and ministry of FCPC.

Reading the Bible in 2025. The congregation is encouraged to read the entire Bible this year. The **Week 2** reading plan is below. See the Friday egram for more info.

Sun. 1/12	Genesis <u>14-15</u> ; Psalm <u>11</u>	Thu. 1/16	Genesis <u>22-23</u> ; Psalm <u>16</u>
Mon. 1/13	Genesis <u>16-17</u> ; Psalm <u>12</u>	Fri. 1/17	Genesis <u>24-25</u> ; Psalm <u>17-18</u>
Tues. 1/14	Genesis <u>18-19</u> ; Psalms <u>13-14</u>	Sat. 1/18	Genesis <u>26-27</u> ; Psalm <u>19</u>
Wed. 1/15	Genesis <u>20-21</u> ; Psalm <u>15</u>		

Enjoy the Bible! Come as you are to FCPC's parlor on Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. for open-ended conversations about pertinent Scripture passages. *2nd Saturday option:* Prayer breakfast at Knox Presbyterian at 8:00 a.m. Contact Tom Koger for info.

Church Calendar

Sunday, January 12 – Baptism of the Lord

VOICE Core Team, 9:00 a.m., Room 303

Worship Service, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Ives House Information Session, 11:15 a.m., Parlor

The Bridge, 3:00 p.m., Third Floor

Youth Group, 6:00 p.m., Third Floor

Monday, January 13 – Community Building Ministry Team, 7:00 p.m., Library

Tuesday, January 14 – Tuesday Morning Prayer Group, 8:45 a.m., Zoom

Deacons, 7:30 p.m., Parlor and Zoom

Session, 7:30 p.m., Library

Wednesday, January 15 – 3rd Wednesday Welcome Table, 11:00 a.m. – 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, January 16 – Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., Choir Room

Friday, January 17 – Dinner (6:30 p.m.) & Matthew Black Concert (7:15 p.m.)

Saturday, January 18 – Youth Winter Retreat – Day 1/3

Bible Study & Fellowship Group, 8:00 a.m., Parlor

Sunday, January 19 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany – Youth Winter Retreat – Day 2/3

Bible Fun, 10:00 a.m., Room 206

Worship Service, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary, in person and online

Worship Ministry Team, 11:00 a.m., Conference Room

Ives House Information Session, 11:15 a.m., Parlor

Falls Church Presbyterian belongs to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, “working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.” Falls Church Presbyterian is also a Matthew 25 church seeking to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism, and eradicate systemic poverty.

The Rev. Yena Hwang, Pastor; The Rev. Megan Klose, Associate Pastor

Diane Maloney, Director of Spiritual Growth and Community Engagement

Dr. Don Armstrong, Director of Music; Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

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463 How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis-mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

375 Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er; soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
 grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;

gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

A Baptist pastor wrote this hymn while seated at his parlor organ. Created as an alternative to gloomy "river of death" hymns, it is a celebration of the "pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Revelation 22:1 KJV).

