

Rock Lake Presbyterian Church
Celebrating 76 years of “Shining Christ’s Light”



Welcome to Rock Lake Presbyterian Church

Here are a few tips to help you participate:

“*” Invites all who are able to stand.

Bold type invites reading or singing by the congregation.

Italic type invites silent reading by the congregation.

Large print hymnals are available from the usher.

Please return hymnals after the service.

July 12, 2026
Email: rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com
website: www.rlpcc.org

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

July 12, 2026

Gathering

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

Arr. David Lasky

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*CALL TO WORSHIP

From Psalm 65

God's creation delights and astonishes.

God's strength established the mountains and silences the roaring seas.

God softens the earth with showers, enriching it and blessing its growth.

The meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain.

God, the Creator made it all. Let us worship this marvelous God.

*OPENING HYMN #32

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

...so that we will be restored and renewed in faith. **Amen.**

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD #466

"Come and Fill Our Hearts"

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, your word often falls on hardened ground when we close our minds to your truths. Our busy days become thorny tangles and crowd out your place in our lives. We try to do what is right and are frustrated by stoney resistance. Forgive our frail and human ways and cultivate in us a spirit of trust and faithfulness.

*Silence for personal confession. God's people say **Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Brothers and sisters, when we are overwhelmed, God stands by us and forgives our shortcomings. Be at peace, for God restores and strengthens us and waters our souls in their parched and hardened places. **Thanks be to God!**

Listening to the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Once again we come to hear your word today, O God. Prepare the soil of our hearts that they may be fertile ground to hear and receive your message. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹If you have ears, hear!" ¹⁸"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"The Mystery of Faith"

The Rev. Jim Robinson

Responding to God

*HYMN

“The Crowds ‘Round Jesus Gathered”

Tune: AURELIA

**The crowds ‘round Jesus gathered to listen as he taught
of seeds a sower scattered and yield beyond their thought.
For God will bring the harvest of fruits a hundredfold
despite resistant hardness and all that we withhold.**

**God’s word is for our hearing, as seeds are for the soil,
but much is interfering, God’s harvest to despoil.
Like thorns, the world’s distractions choke out the truth we seek,
for wealth has its attractions and care can leave us weak.**

**O God, grant understanding and willingness to learn,
so soil where seeds are landing may yield a high return.
May depth and strong endurance accompany our joy,
and love give reassurance no evil can destroy.**

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*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**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.**

JOYS & CONCERNS

*If you would like to share a joy or concern, we would like to hear it. In order to hear it, please raise
your hand and a microphone will be brought to you.*

PASTORAL PRAYER and 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.**

Going Forth to Serve

*HYMN #80

“You Shall Go Out with Joy’

*BENEDICTION

*DEPARTING SONG #609

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known; Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Greet one another in peace as you depart

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Church Notes

WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist: Margie Gumowski
Preacher: Jim Robinson
Music Director: Marilyn Padon
Organist: Pam Ferrell

WE WELCOME THE REV. JIM ROBINSON TO OUR PULPIT TODAY.

Jim is a retired 20-year career Marine officer and a retired minister, having served the Elk Hills Presbyterian Church for nearly 14 years. He also was Acting Stated Clerk of the Presbytery and Moderator of the Synod of the Trinity. Meanwhile, he also served as on-call chaplain for CAMC for 17 years. Jim is active in Habitat for Humanity. He and his wife Karen live in Charleston and have two daughters and three granddaughters.

JULY POTLUCK will be celebrated today. We invite everyone to the potluck after the worship service. Even if you cannot bring any food to the potluck, we invite you to bring your most important ingredient – YOU!!

Prayer List

To add/remove/correct names on the prayer list,
please call the church office (768-4141) or email rocklakepreschurch@gmail.com

Prayers of Joy

Prayers for Concerns – Our friends and neighbors and their families

Patricia Ansley & Family	Emily Holton	Don Shroder
Merrily Bailey	Ravi Isaiah	Mike & Susan Spurgeon
Barker Family	Doug Lathom	Bill Wagner
Bob Binning	Cheryl Laws	Gary Withrow
Shayne Compton	Hollie McCraw	
Larry Graham	Rick McGuire	

-We pray for all of the victims of the Earthquake in Venezuela and the rescue teams.

- Praying for peace in the US/Iran conflict, Ukraine/Russia conflict, and the Israel/Hamas conflict and all conflicts around the globe. Grant us peace!

- We pray for peace in the world. We pray for our world leaders to do what is right and just. We pray for all the people in the world who are affected by war: The children, the common person, the armies, the leaders. Grant us courage and grace during the coming year.

- Climate change as evidenced by more severe and deadly storms, fires, floods, and prolonged heat waves locally, nationally, and globally. These events are causing large numbers of injuries and deaths of people, disruptions of food supplies, and many animal & plant species to greatly diminish and even go extinct

Prayers for our Military

Brett Baker	Evan Chaney
Jeff Barker	Nigel Jeffries
Brent Bishop	

All who are serving, who have been injured and the families who have lost someone in combat; those who live and serve on the Korean Peninsula and other nations in that region of the world; our troops facing terrorist attacks.

Prayers for those in Senior Residential Centers - Jackie Pauley, Valley Center

Prayers for those at Home –Joel Callison, Bonnie Cheely, Anita Wehrmann

Prayer List for Churches: Beckley Presbyterian Church; First Presbyterian Church; White Sulphur Spgs; Thunguma Church; Rimukurwe Parish