

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

July 26, 2026

9th Sunday After Pentecost/Proper 12

10:00 am

(*) *You're invited to stand as you are able.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

I Need Thee Every Hour arr. Christina Mathis

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETING

Rev. Caitlin Culp

***WELCOME SONG**

I've Got the Joy

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Enter God's gates with praise and thanksgiving.

All: We order our footsteps according to God's word.

***OPENING HYMN #735**

I Need Thee Every Hour

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Responsive*)

One: Spirit, intercede . . .

All: when we fall short of your glory, when we do not live into your promises, when we do not act like those who have been called your family.

One: Spirit, intercede . . .

All: when our words wound, when our silence speaks volumes, when our actions are a far cry from what you would have us do.

One: Spirit, intercede . . .

All: break forth into our lives, forming us into the image of your Son, that we might never feel separate from you again.

Silent prayer...

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***RESPONSE #582**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

One: May the love and peace of Christ be with you all. **All: And also with you.**

ANTHEM

In the Garden by C. Austin Miles

Gigi Kelsey

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Paul Vogel

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Psalm 119:129-136

Paul Vogel

Leader: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Kent Hamaker

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

SERMON

“Transformation”

Caitlin Culp

***HYMN #175**

Seek Ye First

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Unison*)

[A New Creed from the United Church of Canada]

We are not alone; we live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Prayer requests are listed in the bulletin. You’re invited to share prayer requests aloud.

EUCHARIST

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Fraser Murdoch, CEO, Bridges to Independence

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY #607**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN #80**

You Shall Go Out with Joy (sung 2x)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Clowns on Unicycles by Mona Rejino

Gigi Kelsey

Thank you for sharing in this time of worship with us. The Usher is Hille Blackshaw. The liturgist is Paul Vogel. Thanks to Gigi Kelsey for sharing gifts of music. Coffee Hour is hosted by the Congregational Care & Membership Team to celebrate Covenant’s June & July birthdays. 🍰 The worship service is recorded and available on YouTube and the church’s website.

Large print hymn books, individual seat cushions, and children’s activity packets are available from the usher at the entrance. Children of all ages are welcome to stay in the sanctuary for all parts of the worship service.

Bathrooms are located outside of the sanctuary to the right, through the narthex, and up the small set of stairs in the foyer. A diaper changing station is in the “Teen Lounge,” which is past the bathrooms, through the double doors, on the left past the library. An ADA-accessible bathroom is located in the fellowship hall. To access the fellowship hall, drive around to the parking lot and enter through the double doors.

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

Rev. Caitlin Culp, **Pastor**

Kent Hamaker, **Director of Christian Formation and Outreach**

Melissa McMahan, **Music Director**

Church of the Covenant
2666 Military Road, Arlington VA 22207
703-524-4115 | thechurchofthecovenant@gmail.com

PRAYER LIST

Almighty God, we pray for our world and our church, calling by name:

Rev. Jean Debbie Darla Lola

Family of Bill, cousin of Stan, who died recently.

Our country's leaders. Those impacted by health crises.

Peace in the Middle East; for cessation of hostilities between Israel, Iran, & USA.

Othow and his ministry in South Sudan, and for his friend, Ambassador Odola.

**If you have prayer requests you'd like added to this list, email covenantpastorpcusa@gmail.com.
Prayers remain on this list for two weeks unless we hear otherwise.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Monday Morning Quarterbacks**
(Men's Group) - Mondays @ 10am
- **Summer Book Study** - Tuesdays
@ 10am via Zoom on July 28th,
Aug 11th, Aug 18th
- **Thursday Devotional Time @**
12pm via Zoom
- **Sandwich making for Verano**
Alegre Camp - TODAY, 11am
- **Communion Worship w/EIPC** on
Sunday, August 2nd at 10am
- **4th Sunday Walking Group @**
8am, Potomac Overlook Regional
Park, *meet by the playground*

Summer worship will be at 10am
through Rally Day, Sunday, September
13th.

To receive church emails, email
covenantpastorpcusa@gmail.com