

RICHMOND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Tom Stark

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026

Service 10:00 AM

Welcome

Call to Worship

Lord, open our ears to your voice and our hearts to your grace. Hear us as we call upon your name today.

We come seeking your presence, trusting that you lean down to listen to our praise and our cries.

You are the God who answers, the rock of our salvation and our refuge in times of need.

May our worship rise like incense, and may our attentive spirits hear what you speak to us this day. Amen.

Opening Song #496 “Sweet Hour of Prayer” Verses 1-3

Opening Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, You are a Father who bends down to listen when Your children call. We gather in this holy place today with hearts open, minds attentive, and spirits eager to hear Your voice. Lord, the world is full of noise, but we come now seeking Your holy stillness.

Forgive us for the times we have drowned out Your gentle whispers with our own busyness. We ask that You clear away our distractions, calm our anxious thoughts, and tune our hearts to the frequency of Your grace.

As we lift our voices in praise, prayer, and song, fulfill Your promise to be near us. Meet us in this space. Speak to us through Your Word, comfort us with Your Holy Spirit, and challenge us to live out Your truth.

We pray all of this in the name of the One who hears every sigh and every cry, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gloria Patri

Children’s Message

Special Music

Prayer for Illumination:

Lord God, in moments when you feel far away, your Word reminds us that we are never truly alone. Send your Holy Spirit to illuminate these words from the Psalmist. Open our hearts to receive the honesty of this lament. Quiet our doubts, comfort our anxieties, and grant us the wisdom to hear your truth even in times of spiritual darkness, in Jesus’ name. Amen

Lesson – Psalm 13:1-2

Message

Time for Reflection

Prayer Chorus #352 “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior” Verses 1-4

Pastoral Prayer–

Question: Do You Have Any Praises?

Lord, our hearts overflow with gratitude today. We lift up the praises shared by this community: We thank you for these signs of your 'prevenient grace'—the ways you love us before we even know how to ask. (**Praises**)

Yet, Holy One, we know that even in spring, there are storms. We bring to you our concerns and the heavy burdens we carry: (**concerns**)

For those who feel stuck in a 'long winter' of the soul, be their warmth. For those who are hurting, be their healer. We pray for your creation—for places in our world broken by conflict—that your peace would settle like a gentle spring rain upon parched land. Amen

The Lord’s Prayer – UMC Hymnal page 10

Announcements and Action Plans

Giving our Tithes and Offerings

Doxology

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.

Closing Hymn #140 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Verses 1-3

Benediction –

Go forth into the world in peace, knowing that you do not walk alone. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May He make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May He lift up His countenance upon you, bend down His ear to your every prayer, and grant you His everlasting peace.

Remember that wherever you go this week, your voice is heard by the Creator of the universe. Speak to Him boldly in your joy, cry out to Him honestly in your sorrow, and listen closely for His gentle whisper in the quiet moments. Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with you all, both now and forevermore. Amen.

Response: **May the Peace of Christ Go with You**

Benediction Response “May the Peace of the Lord Christ Go with You”