

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church
Sunday, August 24, 2025

Prelude
Welcome
Announcements

Pastor Mark
Duty Elder

Preparation for Worship - Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing - Wyeth arr. Labenske

Call to Worship

In you, O God, we seek refuge;

In Your justice, deliver and save us.

Be a rock of refuge for us, a strong fortress, because You are our rock and fortress.

For you, O Lord, are our hope and trust.

Our praise is continually of You. We gather to worship you.

Opening Prayer

***Hymn #480 Open My Eyes**

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God, the Creator of All, our redeemer in the person of Jesus, and our sure confidence in the coming power of your Holy Spirit. We confess our feelings of exile and alienation, of loneliness and anxiety. We wonder where you are. We fear your absence when, in fact, you are most present to us. Restore in us a sense of your comfort and care. Renew our strength so that we might realize our calling as disciples of Jesus. Forgive us and claim us again through Christ our Lord . . .

(A time of silent prayer will be kept).

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

***Gloria Patri #734**

Responsive Scripture Lesson: Psalm 71

In you, LORD, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

**In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me;
turn your ear to me and save me.**

Be my rock of refuge,
to which I can always go;
give the command to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.

**Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.**

For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD,
my confidence since my youth.

**From birth I have relied on you;
you brought me forth from my mother's womb.
I will ever praise you.**

Scripture Lesson: Philippians 1: 18-26

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, **19** for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. **20** I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. **21** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. **22** If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! **23** I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; **24** but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. **25** Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, **26** so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Sermon: The Highest Spirituality

***Affirmation of Faith:** (from The Presbyterian Brief Statement of Faith)
In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Offering: Your continuing, generous support of our Church is greatly appreciated. Please use the Offering plate at the back of the sanctuary for your gifts, or please mail your offering and tithes to the Church office.

***Doxology #34**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Duty Elder

Prayers of the People

A Time of Sharing

The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

***Hymn #473 What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

***Benediction - Thessalonians 5: 16-18**

***Closing Song - Sanctuary (see screen)**

Postlude: To God Be the Glory - arr. Labenske.

Leading Worship: Pastor Mark

Deb Wolf – Organist / Choir Director

Bev Benner - Duty Elder

Alicia DeHoff - Lay Reader

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