

Beyond the Palace Walls

Sunday, October 18, 2026

MEDITATION

“The ultimate measure of a [person] is not where [they] stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where [they] stand at times of challenge and controversy.”

—Martin Luther King Jr.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

L: And now, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **All: And also with you.**

PRELUDE

“In Memory of the Savior’s Love”

Music: Dana Mengal

CALL TO WORSHIP

Chris Polloni, Deacon

L: We gather in the presence of a God whose love knows no boundaries.

All: A God who welcomes us with grace and compassion.

L: We come with our hopes and fears, our questions and doubts.

All: Trusting in the One who meets us just as we are.

L: God calls us beyond fear, beyond judgment, beyond the walls that divide us.

All: To walk in the way of Jesus, where love makes room for all.

Let us worship God this day!

***OPENING SONG**

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

Black 27

RESPONSIVE OPENING PRAYER

Chris Polloni, Deacon

L: God of boundless love, you are not confined by the walls we build or the limits we place upon your grace.

All: You meet us in our joy and sorrow, in our courage and fear, in the familiar and the unexpected. Open our hearts this morning to see you in new ways.

L: Challenge the assumptions we carry, soften the judgments we make, and help us recognize your presence in those whom the world overlooks or casts aside.

All: May our worship draw us closer to the love revealed in Jesus, a love that welcomes, restores, and makes all things new. Amen.

WORD FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Lisa Allen, Co-Church Life Director

ANTHEM

"Let All The People Praise Thee"

*Words: Psalm 67:3, Music: Natalie Sleeth
Sung by the Choir*

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 146: 3-10, p. 715; Matthew 22:1-14, p. 29

Chris Polloni, Deacon & Rev. Christina Williams

L: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

"Beyond the Palace Walls"

Rev. Christina Williams

RESPONSIVE SONG

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" vs.1-4

Black 423

PRAYERS OF CONCERN

After the pastoral prayer, you are invited to share your joys or concerns out loud during the prayers of the people. Please respond, "O Lord, hear our prayers."

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. All are invited to sing "Amen". (Black 812)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

"All Good Gifts"

*Words: adapted from Scripture, Music: Natalie Sleeth
Sung by the Choir*

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.

***UNISON OFFERING PRAYER**

Generous God, all that we have and all that we are comes from your abundant love. Receive these gifts as an expression of our gratitude and our desire to follow in the way of Jesus. May they bring hope to those who are struggling, comfort to those who feel forgotten, and welcome to those who have been left out. Through our giving and our living, may your love reach beyond these walls and into the world. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“We Are Called to Be God’s People”

Insert

***BLESSING**

SUNG BENEDICTION

“You are my All in All”

Words/Music: Dennis Jernigan

Sung by the Choir, accompanied by the Bells

POSTLUDE

“The King of Love my Shepherd Is”

Music: Charles Gounod

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Many thanks to the volunteers who enriched our morning together!

Tech Deacon, Amelia Allen; Choir, Alan King, Chris Polloni, Malcolm Donald, Meg Tivey, Joyce Kenneally, Kay Clark, Linda Thomas; Bell players: Robert Nelson, Lisa Allen, Jean Swartz, Betsy Woodley, Margaret Tivey; Hospitality, Roberta Markham & Jeanne Swartz; Food donation, Roberta Markham, Jeanne Swartz, Joyce Kenneally & Linda Thomas

Leading worship today: Rev. Christina Williams, Minister; Stephanie Miles, Music Director; Lisa Allen, Co-Church Life Director, Chris Polloni, Deacon

NEW HERE TODAY?

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!
To help you navigate Sunday mornings with us, please see the guide below.*

1. **Order of Worship:** **An asterisk is an invitation to stand if you are able.
Bold text indicates speaking in unison.*
2. **Kid's Connection:** *After the "Word for all God's children," the children leave worship for Bible-themed learning through crafts, conversation, and games with Lisa Allen.*
3. **Take Two:** *This adult faith formation group meets after worship every other Sunday with Lisa Allen. Join the conversation this Sunday in the small classroom.*
4. **Coffee & Conversation:** *Gather with us after worship to greet friends and make new ones in the Covenant Room, down the hall on the right.*
5. **Have Questions?** *Please reach out to Rev. Christina Williams or Deacon of the day.*

Music covered under One License A-728849



**The altar flowers are given by Donna Cooper in memory
of her husband Gregory.**