

John Calvin Presbyterian Church
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 17, 2025 10:30 a.m.



“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

Christ is Lord! Following our Savior’s example, the John Calvin Presbyterian Church accepts the call to **worship** God, **teach** the Scriptures, **grow** in faith, **serve** the community, **love and encourage** one another, and **proclaim** the Good News.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Please silence all cell phones prior to the beginning of the service.

†You are invited to stand in body or spirit as you are able.

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WELCOME TO JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH! We are so pleased you are here today!

We pray today's worship is a blessing to you. **If you have a prayer request**, you are invited to write those on a prayer slip found at the end of each pew. Pastor Jen will collect those during the first hymn.

If you are a first time visitor, we'd be grateful if you would fill out a visitor card (inside the red folder) so that we can thank you for being with us.

These words for worship are adapted from the Presbyterian Outlook Liturgy by Ginna Bairby, and the Connections Worship Companion, Year C, Volume 2.

*As we worship together, you are invited to respond with the words printed in **bold**.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Jen Kottler

CHIMING TO THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

Angel Neil

WELCOME

Elder Thomas Hawkins

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Pastor Jen

†CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsively*)

Gladys Davis, Liturgist

Hear the word of the Lord:

How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?

Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and destitute.

Rescue the vulnerable and needy from the hands of those who oppress them.

Arise, O God, and judge the earth!

All the peoples belong to you.

†PRAYER (*in unison*)

God of overflowing grace and ever-blazing glory, you are the maker of heaven and earth and the author of all things past, present, and future. Teach us to interpret the signs of the times so we will be ready to greet your holy realm at the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Hymn 724

CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*responsively*)

Try as we might to follow Jesus, at some point we always fail. But our failure does not have the power to separate us from God. Trusting Christ's grace, let us confess our sin together.

Ever-loving God, we confess that we are not always ready to trust your love. You call us to step forward in radical faith, but we cling to what is familiar, comfortable and non-controversial. You are eternally at work in the world, but we struggle to discern your presence in the signs of the times. Forgive us, O God. By your grace, give us courage to stand for what is right and good and to risk love and justice even when it is unpopular. Teach us faithfulness and perseverance for the journey ahead. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

KYRIE

Come, Spirit, Come

Hymn 693

Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol;
 our spir - its long to be made whole.
 Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;
 by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (*responsively*)

Friends, look around! We are indeed surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. We are the body of Christ, the family of faith, all of us both saints and sinners. The grace we receive in baptism washes away our shame and brokenness and unites us with one another in bonds of love and kinship. Proclaim the good news with me:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE (*responsively*)

As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to each other. The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

(Let us share a sign of Christ's peace – by waving to one another, shaking hands, giving a fist bump or a holy hug – and may we share Christ's peace with all we encounter this day.)

RESPONSE

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines On Me

Hymn 582

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Pastor Jen

ANTHEM

Gethsemane (Weber)

Wyatt Yock, soloist

(At the conclusion of the Anthem, children are invited to go with our children's ministry leaders for Children's Church. Parents are welcome to accompany their child.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord Jesus, who brought the fire of the Holy Spirit, may that fire burn within our hearts as we read the scriptures today. Teach us to choose your Way. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11:29-12:2 (NRSVUE)

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim.

Thanks be to God.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Luke 12:49-56 (NRSVUE)

⁴⁹ “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Jennifer H. Kottler

†**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*in unison*)

(*from A Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

SONG OF PREPARATION *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* Hymn 469
Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

...Hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together,

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

(All who are worshiping in-person who have not already given their offering online or by mail, are welcome to drop your offering in the offering plates at the rear of the sanctuary as you exit. Those present who wish to give by text are welcome to text “JCPC” and amount (ex. JCPC \$50) to 73256.)

OFFERTORY

Angel Neil

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(in unison)*

Generous God, receive these gifts as investments in your kingdom of love, justice and peace. Use this money and use our lives to bring about the world as you intend it. With gratitude we pray, Amen.

†**HYMN** *We’ve Come This Far by Faith* Hymn 656

†**CHARGE** Elder Hawkins

†**BENEDICTION** Rev. Kottler

†**CHORAL RESPONSE** *We Will Go out with Joy* Hymn 539

POSTLUDE Angel Neil

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today following worship we will have a **lemonade stand and bake sale** to raise money for the inclusive playground in our Backyard Sanctuary. You know that this community knows how to bake, so please bring your cash and donate to this worthy endeavor!

Sunday, August 31st we will have a **“hymn sing”** during worship. If you have hymns you would like to sing, please complete the form and place in the offering plate as you leave.

The Presbyterian Women will have their **annual luncheon** to kick off the new year on Saturday, **August 23rd at 12:00 PM** in the fellowship hall. Please bring a salad to share.

THIS WEEK AT JOHN CALVIN
Serving this week, August 17, 2025

Elder on Call: Thomas Hawkins 843-496-3828		Liturgist: Gladys Davis
Usher/Greeter: Jane Thrower, Samantha Shock		Children's Church: Karen Pattillo
Counters: Ron Rogers, Susan Tedder, Tom Hoffmeyer		
Today	9:15 AM	Sunday School Classes for All Ages
	10:30 AM	Worship Celebration and Children's Church
	11:30 AM	Lemonade Stand/Bake Sale (porch)
Tuesday	6:00 PM	Stated Session Meeting (Multipurpose Room)
Wednesday	11:30 PM	<i>The Moral Teachings of Jesus</i> Bible Study (Zoom&Study)
	6:00 PM	Handbell Rehearsal (Multipurpose Room)
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Multipurpose Room)
Thursday	5:30-8:00 PM	Strengthening Families (FH and Classrooms)
Saturday	12:00 PM	Presbyterian Women's Luncheon (FH)
Sunday	9:15 AM	Sunday School for All Ages
	10:30 AM	Worship Celebration and Children's Church
	11:30 AM	Margaret Rogers Reception(porch)

Serving the week of Aug 24, 2025

Elder on Call: Myra Horton 843-687-5040		Liturgist: Al Feimster
Usher/Greeter: Shirley & Wilda Gray		Children's Church: Tyler Gross
Counters: Robin Permenter, Tom Shearin		

Chancel Choir and Handbell rehearsals have begun! If you are interested in joining either with the choir or the bells, please see Angel, or just come to rehearsal. All are welcome and we are excited to be moving full speed ahead!

Strengthening Families is starting back this week! If you are interested in volunteering to serve the meal or clean up afterward, please contact Thelma Hawkins.

Are you receiving our prayer emails (from jcpccprays@gmail.com), our monthly newsletter, our weekly bulletin, bible study reminders and other periodic emails from the church office? If not, and you would like to, please send your up-to-date preferred email address to the church office (johncalvinpresbyterian@gmail.com) and we will make sure that you are getting all our communications.

Please have any information and articles for the August newsletter to Jane Coker (janecoker111@gmail.com) no later than August 21st and please copy the church office (johncalvinpresbyterian@gmail.com.)

The Session of Elders

Class of 2025

Thomas Hawkins
Myra Horton
Betty Anne Smith

Class of 2026

(vacant)
Robin Permenter
Gary Pierce

Class of 2027

Joe Bittle
Tom Hoffmeyer
Connie Reel- Shearin

Clerk of Session: Betty Anne Smith—— Moderator: Rev. Jen Kottler
Treasurer: Tom Hoffmeyer—— Assistant Treasurers: Tom Shearin and Will Ginn

Committees and Chairpersons

Building & Grounds —————
Caring & Fellowship ————— Joe Bittle
Christian Education ————— Myra Horton
Finance & Stewardship ————— Tom Hoffmeyer
Evangelism, Outreach & Mission ————— Tom Hawkins
Nominating Committee ————— Connie Reel-Shearin
Office and Personnel ————— Robin Permenter
Worship & Music ————— Gary Pierce
Presbyterian Women ————— Jane Coker

Staff

Coordinator of Children's Ministries and Administrative Assistant—— Susan Nexsen
Director of Music Ministries & Accompanist—— Angel Neil
Childcare Assistant—— Christina Boyles
Sexton ————— Milton Allen
Pastor—— Rev. Jennifer Kottler

JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Presbytery of New Harmony
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Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/johncalvinflorence/>

Pastor Jen: (843) 203-8477 (talk/text); pastorjenkottler@gmail.com (email)

...A place where all are welcome, and no one is a stranger.