

*“Love first. Love always,
and we’ll figure out the rest of it as we go along.”ⁱ*



*February 8th, 2026
11:00 a.m.*

*North Chevy Chase Christian Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation
Connecting Faith with Community.*

The People of God Gather

If you're new to North Chevy Chase Christian Church, please consider filling out the Feedback Card you will find in the Pew pocket. We'll follow up with a brief phone call or email to say thank you for worshipping with us and to answer any question you may have. We are glad you're here with us today!

WELCOME

Rev. Stephen Tickner

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Glenn Pearson, Pianist/Organist

Congregation standing in body or spirit

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer¹ Richard Sherman
Worship Leader

One: People of God, why are you here?

ALL: We gather to worship with our hearts and our lives.

One: People of God, who do you worship?

ALL: We worship God, who loves us and teaches us to love.

One: People of God, how do you worship?

¹ Call to Worship and opening prayer provided by the Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church (umcdiscipleship.org)

ALL: We worship God by breaking the bonds of injustice and freeing the oppressed.

One: People of God, come, let us worship God, whose glory surrounds us!

ALL: May our worship demonstrate God's glory in our neighborhood, community, and the whole earth.

One: Now with our hearts open to God, let us pray...

OPENING HYMN "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" CH 73

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy 73

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and more grac-es for the good!
3. For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
4. If our love were but more sim-ple, we should rest up-on God's word;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.
There is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
and our lives would be il-lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.

WORDS: Frederick W. Faber, 1854
MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjee, 1877; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

WELLESLEY
87.87

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Musical Response

"Sanctuary"

see insert

SANCTUARY 462

*Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts...
Psalm 24:3-4*

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
ho - ly, tried and true; with thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a
liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for You.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and ho - ly, tried and true; with thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for You."

Text: John Thompson, b.1950 and Randy Scruggs
Tune: John Thompson, b.1950 and Randy Scruggs
© 1982, Full Armor Music and Whole Armor Music

Proclaim

A READING FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE

Isaiah 58:1-9

58 Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,

to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

“Done Made My Vow”

Matt Pearson, Soloist

MESSAGE

Rev. Stephen Tickner

HYMN

“Close to Thee”

Verses 1-2

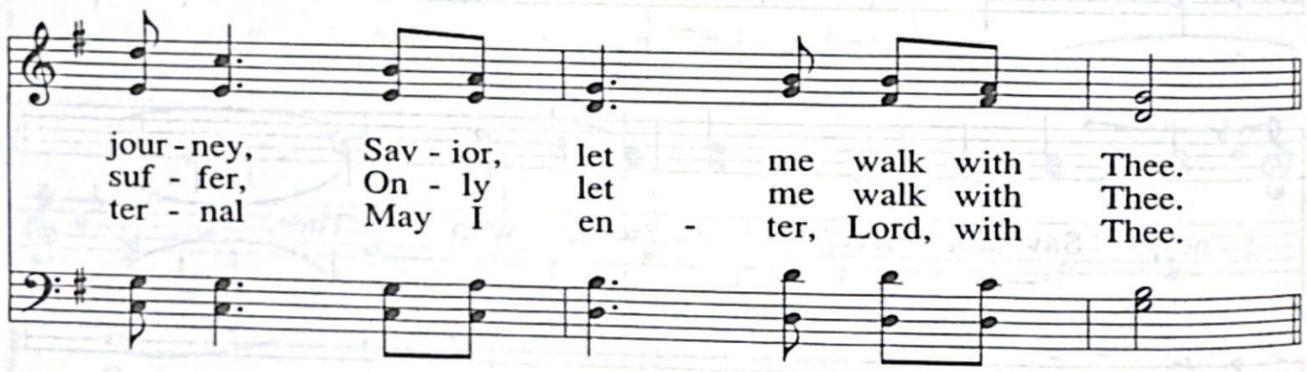
LIFE IN CHRIST DISCIPLESHIP

553 CLOSE TO THEE

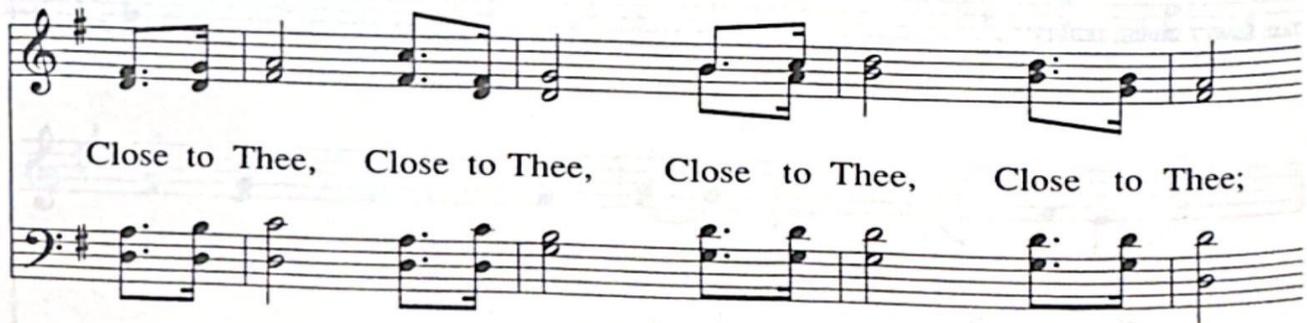
*...they began their journey for the sake of Christ.
3 John 7*

1. Thou my ev - er - last - ing por - tion, More than
2. Not for ease or world - ly pleas - ure, Nor for
3. Lead me through the vale of shad - ows, Bear me

friend or life to me, All a - long my pil - grim
fame my prayer shall be; Glad - ly will I toil and
o'er life's fit - ful sea; Then the gate of life e -



jour - ney, suf - fer, ter - nal Sav - ior, On - ly May I let me walk with Thee. On - ly let me walk with Thee. en - ter, Lord, with Thee.



Close to Thee, Close to Thee, Close to Thee, Close to Thee;



All a - long my pil - grim jour - ney, Sav - ior, let me walk with Thee. Glad - ly will I toil and suf - fer, On - ly let me walk with Thee. Then the gate of life e - ter - nal May I en - ter, Lord, with Thee.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

Tune: CLOSE TO THEE, 8 7 8 7 with refrain; Silas J. Vail, 1818-1884; arr. by Nolan Williams, Jr., b.1969, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

We Give and Receive

Communion is the central act of community within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in remembrance of the life, death and resurrection of Christ. The invitation to the Table is extended to all who wish to follow Jesus and to share in the community of God's people.

Everyone is invited to eat from this Table.

THE INVITATION TO GIVE AND RECEIVE

Rev. Stephen Tickner

PRAYER BY THE ELDER

Anne Marie Crawford

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*COMING FORWARD TO GIVE, AND
TO RECEIVE THE BREAD AND THE CUP*

We come forward to bring our physical bodies and our financial gifts to God. You are invited to come forward down the center aisle to place your tithes & offerings in the trays available; and to receive the elements of bread and cup, taking them and returning to your seats down the side aisle, to consume the elements in silent reflection.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

...And Go Forth to Serve

SHARING OF JOYS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregation standing

CLOSING HYMN

“This Little Light of Mine”

Verses 1-3

549 THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:16

1. This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.
3. Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine.

oh

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine.

oh

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine.

oh oh

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

4. Shine, shine, shine, I'm gonna let it shine....
5. All in my home, I'm gonna let it shine....

Text: Negro spiritual

Tune: LIGHT OF MINE, 12 12 12 9; Negro spiritual; arr. by Nolan Williams, Jr., b.1969, ©2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please be seated and allow the music to offer a moment of reflection as you prepare to exit the Sanctuary.

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*Please join us for coffee hour in Harlow Hall*

*following the conclusion of the Postlude*

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SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Stephen Tickner, Minister

Glenn Pearson, Pianist/Organist

Matt Pearson, Soloist

Richard Sherman, Worship Leader

Anne-Marie Crawford, Elder at the Table

A/V Team - Yvonne McGee, Lydia Oladapo,

Devi Rambarran

HEARING ASSISTANCE HEADPHONES are available in the Narthex.

Please set all pagers and cell phones to vibrate at this time.

CH = Chalice Hymnal (found in the pew racks)

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Acknowledgment of Native Americans: A Statement toward Reconciliation

For thousands of years indigenous people have walked in this land, on their own country. Their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives. We gratefully acknowledge them, past and present, and their stewardship of this land on which we stand.

ⁱ Quote from Chaplain Owen Chandler at the 2023 General Assembly. Attribution for Cover Art:

Latimore, Kelly. "Broken Vessel", from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57080> [retrieved February 3, 2026]. Original source: Kelly Latimore Icons, <https://kellylatimoreicons.com/>.