



CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 27, 2026

Livestream & In-Person

10:00 a.m.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

Click [HERE](#) to register your attendance

* GREETING ONE ANOTHER

PRELUDE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Alexis Davidson

Leader: Why do you come to this place?

People: We seek the path of righteousness and truth.

Leader: Do you come ready to hear and learn, giving attention to God's Word?

People: We come with open hearts and minds seeking to learn from the one whose authority is founded on God's love.

Leader: Friends, lend your ears and open your hearts because this is God's house, built by love and sustained by hope, where God seeks to align our work and witness.

There were walls between us.
By the cross You came and broke them down,
You broke them down.
And there were chains around us
By Your grace we are no longer bound, no longer bound.
You called me out of the grave. You called me into the light.
You called my name and then my heart came alive.
Your love is greater. Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me.
Your love is greater. Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me.
Feel the darkness shaking,
All the dead are coming back to life,
I'm back to life.
Hear the song awaken, all creation singing
We're alive 'cause You're alive.
You called me out of the grave. You called me into the light.
You called my name and then my heart came alive.
Your love is greater. Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me.
Your love is greater. Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me.
And what a love we've found!
Death can't hold us down. We shout it out;
We're alive 'cause You're alive!
And what a love we've found!
Death can't hold us down. We shout it out;
We're alive 'cause You're alive!
And what a love we've found!
Death can't hold us down. We shout it out;
We're alive 'cause You're alive!
Your love is greater. Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me.
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Your love is greater. Your love is stronger.
Your love awakens, awakens, awakens me.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Alexis Davidson

Leader: What burdens your spirit? What regret or hurt do you carry today? Together, let us confess that which does not give us life, and take up instead the love and grace of God.

All: **Eternal God, we come before you aware that you know the truth of our hearts before we can utter a word. You know when our good intentions exceed our capability for gospel living. You know when we embrace the good news of liberation with our lips but don't change our actions. We imprison ourselves with the assumption that you will judge us as mercilessly as we often judge ourselves and one another.**

Forgive our shortcomings and the times we have failed to live the words we say. Restore in us the confidence of people who have heard good news and remind us that even when we arrive late, there is still work to be done.

silence

Leader: Friends, believe this good news, in Christ we are new creations. We are forgiven; we are set free; and we are made ready to live the living Word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

"Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

No. 417
Glory to God

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin. From
earth-born pas - sions set me free, and make me pure with - in.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the response, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

ANTHEM

"The House That Love Is Building"

Sarah Hart

Sanctuary Choir; Susan Herman, Flute

In the house that love is building there is room enough for all,
endless welcome in her rafters, mercy singing through her walls.

Here is refuge for all people from every tribe and tongue.

In the house that love is building there is room for everyone.

In the garden Love is tending there's a great and boundless feast,
where the seeds of hope are planted, and the yield is heaven's peace.

As the field becomes a harvest for the many hungry ones,
in the garden Love is tending there's enough for everyone.

(congregation please join)

Oh, the song that Love is raising is of pure unending light

In the voices of her of her people rising to eternal skies.

Now the darkness shall be swallowed by the Living Word of God.

Oh, the song that Love is raising is a song for everyone.

TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

(All children are invited to the front of the church. Afterwards, children 4 years old through 5th grade are invited to Sunday School.)

* HYMN

"Fight the Good Fight"

No. 846
Glory to God

1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;
 3 Cast care a - side; lean on thy guide.
 4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.

Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
 lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.
 God's bound - less mer - cy will pro - vide.
 God chang - eth not, and thou art dear.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be
 Life with its way be - fore us lies;
 Trust, and thy trust - ing soul shall prove
 On - ly be - lieve, and thou shalt see

thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
 Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
 Christ is its life, and Christ its love.
 that Christ is all in all to thee.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21:23-32

²³ Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?"

²⁴ Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵ John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?"

They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?'" ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin'—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet."

²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

²⁸ "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

²⁹ "'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

³¹ "Which of the two did what his father wanted?"

"The first," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

SERMON

Road Trip

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

* SONG

"Almighty/Step by Step"

Wayne Watson, Rich Mullins,
and David (Beaker) Strasser

Almighty, most holy Lord, faithful through the ages
Almighty, most holy Lord, glorious, almighty God
Almighty, most holy Lord, faithful through the ages
Almighty, most holy Lord, glorious, almighty God
Oh God, You are my God and I will ever praise You
Oh God, You are my God and I will ever praise You
I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days.
I will follow You all of my days, I will follow You all of my days
And step by step You'll lead me and I will follow You all of my days.
Almighty, most holy Lord, faithful through the ages
Almighty, most holy Lord, glorious, almighty God

OFFERING AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY

"Sunday School Songs Medley"

arr. Mark Hayes

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: God of the ages, hear your people as we turn to you now with the joys and sorrows, hopes and fears, triumphs and tragedies of our lives and our world.
Our prayers begin in the nearness of our own being.
Hear, O God, the prayers of our hearts.
Listening God,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: For those drawn close to us, our family, our friends, our neighbors, our coworkers, we pray, O God, that you would hear their prayers and attend to their needs as only you can.
Listening God,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: For those we hold at a distance. Those whom we perceive as enemies, those who have harmed us and those whom we have harmed, those with whom we simply do not click, we pray, O God, that you would hear them in ways that we are incapable of hearing, and that you will open our hearts to their needs as only you can.
Listening God,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: For our community of faith and the community that surrounds us, may walls and divisions constructed with human hands cease to be excuses for our failure to build community together. May the gospel we share and proclaim within these walls, be the watch word of our lives beyond them. And made the words we say and the work we do their witness to the hope of Christ in this community.
Listening God,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: For our nation and our world, we pray for both the powerful and the powerless. May those who hold sway over policy and the relationship of nations be guided by humility and generosity of purpose. May those whose lives are impacted by war and conflict, by political brinksmanship and political silence never be forgotten.
Listening God,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray all of these things in the name of the one who builds up the oppressed and turns tables on the powerful, whose authority is found in faithfulness not in force, who extends a hand of welcome rather than a finger of accusation to sinners like us, Jesus Christ our hope in this and in every day.
Listening God,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Hear us now as we pray the way Christ taught us boldly saying together,

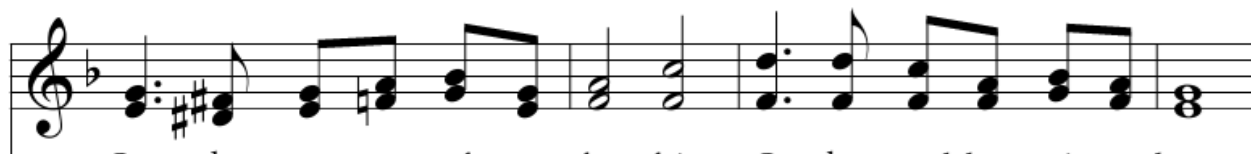
All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum-bere'd with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis-cour-aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Pre - cious Sav-ior, still our ref - uge; take it to the Lord in prayer!



O what peace we of - ten for - feit; O what need-less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share?
Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak-ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so-lace there.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

"Toccata on 'The Old Time Religion'"

Gordon Young

*If you would like to privately share a concern, thanksgiving, or request for healing,
please come to the Stephen Ministry banner on the east wall of the Sanctuary
immediately following the service for individual prayer with a Stephen Minister.*

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Liturgy written by Rev. Dr. Robert Lowry, © Presbyterian Outlook, 2026, adapted.

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Audio/Video: Noor Bitar and Michael Gray

Music Director: Keith Atwater

Organist: Heidi Van Regenmorter

Piano: Gabe Bisho

Drums: Will Condrey

Bass Guitar: Merlyn Van Regenmorter

Vocals: Tara Calderon, Anita Lawson, and Julie Ueltzen

