OAK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 18, 2026 | 21st Sunday after Pentecost | 10:30 a.m.

***Please rise, in body or in spirit.**

Gathering Music — Brian, John, and Paul

Welcome — Rev. Wanda Lawry

Prelude — *Meditation on "Kedron"* — Susan Brown

***Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 96) — Christine Woodward

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song! Everyone, even the rocks and trees, sing!
People: Let us shout out in praise!
Leader: God does great things for us. See God's amazing works all around us.
People: Great is the Lord!
Leader: Tell of God's wonders! Share stories of God's glory.
All: Let us worship the Lord!

***Opening Hymn** — *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* — No. 12

***Prayer for the Day (unison)** — Christine Woodward

Loving God,
As we come to worship today, still in us all that distracts us. Open our ears to hear your Word for us as we listen, sing, and pray, and open our hearts to be transformed to be your people, to love and serve with faithful obedience. Amen.

Call to Confession — Rev. Wanda Lawry

Prayer of Confession (unison) — Oak Hill Community

Almighty God,
We confess that we have not been the faithful disciples you call us to be. We have not remembered who we are. We are distracted by glittering gold. We are mesmerized by fame and fortune. We turn a blind eye to systems that perpetuate injustice. We fail to hear the cries for mercy of those who bear unfair burdens. We close our hearts and imagine empathy to be weakness. Forgive us Lord. Remind us that we are yours, citizens of the Kin-dom of God. Give us courage to be Kin-dom builders here and now, showing mercy and grace in a world in deep need. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Time for silent prayers of confession:

Assurance of Pardon — Rev. Wanda Lawry

***Hymn** — *Give Thanks, O Christian People* — No. 644

Peace — Oak Hill Community

Time for Growing Disciples — Rev. Wanda Lawry

Anthem — *O Breath of Life* — Chancel Choir

First Scripture Reading — Isaiah 45:1-7 — Christine Woodward

Second Scripture Reading — 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 — Rev. Wanda Lawry

Sermon *Steadfast Perseverance and Hope* Rev. Wanda Lawry

Meditation *Softly and Tenderly* Susan Brown

Offering *You can make an offering online at www.oakhillpcusa.org,* Oak Hill Community
place it in the plate on the table in the back of the sanctuary, or mail your check to the church.

***Response** *We Are an Offering* No. 710

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering,
Lord, use our voices; Lord. use our hands; Lord, use our lives;
they are yours: we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering; we are an offering.

Prayers of the People Oak Hill Community

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

Announcements Rev. Wanda Lawry

***Closing Hymn** *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!* No. 839

Benediction Rev. Wanda Lawry

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 45:1-7

45Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before
him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him— and the gates shall not be closed: [2]I will
go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars
of iron, [3]I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know
that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. [4]For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me.
[5]I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me,
[6]so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I
am the Lord, and there is no other. [7]I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the
Lord do all these things.
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

Second Scripture Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

2We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly 3remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. 6And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, 7so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. 9For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, 10and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

TEXT: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.
MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; *arr. Caniadau y Cyssegr,* 1839

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Give Thanks, O Christian People 644

This text was written by a Presbyterian director of Christian education in Washington, DC, to honor the ministry of a colleague who was leaving the area. It is an effective reminder that God's people serve in many vocations and ministries. The tune adapts a secular German song.

TEXT: Mary Jackson Cathey, 1984
MUSIC: Memmingen ms., 17th cent.; harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1904
Text © 1986 Fresh Winds of the Spirit by Lavon Bayler (admin. The Pilgrim Press)

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839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

Sometimes this prolific 19th-century hymnwriter wrote texts for others to set, and sometimes she created words for tunes others had composed. This text was of the second kind, and the resulting close fit between words and music has made them both popular and inseparable.

TEXT: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1873; Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee, 2001 ASSURANCE

MUSIC: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873

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