MCLEAN PRESBYTERIAN

Grace changes everything



6PM ADVENT COMMUNION SERVICE

NOVEMBER 29, 2026

We exist to glorify and enjoy God by making disciples who make a difference through grace-filled worship, community, and mission.

MCLEANPRES.ORG
703.821.0800

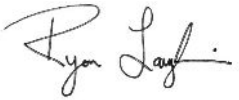
Welcome

We are so glad you are here!

We're all at different stages in our relationships with God: he may be the priority of your life, it may have been a while since you connected with him, or you may be exploring these things for the first time. At McLean Presbyterian Church, we celebrate God's grace: Jesus came to give us life — today and for eternity. This offer is made to us all; whatever your background, we're delighted you're here!

We'd love to connect with you. Fill out a Connect Card — found in our Keeping Connected pads, in our Welcome Area, or online (QR code below). Whether you're worshiping with us for the first time or as a regular part of our family, we hope this service will be good for your soul.

In his grace,



Ryan Laughlin, Senior Pastor

LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS

Large-print worship bulletins are available from an usher.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES

Sanctuary assisted listening devices are available from an usher.

NEWS & UPDATES

Follow us on social media | ***@mcleanpres***

Sign up for our *Weekly* newsletter | ***mcleanpres.org/newsletter***

LIVE IN THE HERNDON AREA?

Visit our sister site:

Capital Presbyterian Herndon | ***capitalpresherndon.org***

Our church is a member of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

FOR YOUR KIDS:

Childcare is available during the service for ages birth–Pre-K.

CONNECT WITH US

We can't wait to reach out and say hello! Stop by our Welcome Area or fill out this digital connect card, and a member of our staff will welcome you.

Service of Divine Worship

November 29, 2026 | 6pm Advent Communion

We rest our hearts in God's presence as we prepare for worship

PRELUDE

UNTO US (WONDERFUL COUNSELOR)

We celebrate God's presence with us

WELCOME

God calls us to worship him in spirit and in truth

CALL TO WORSHIP

PSALM 13 (ESV)

Leader: How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I take counsel in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,
lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

All: **But I have trusted in your steadfast love;**
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

We ask for the Holy Spirit to work among us

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

We sing praises to God for who he is and for what he has done

SONGS OF PRAISE

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words St. 1, 4 by C. Wesley, 1744, St. 2-3 by M.E. Hunt; Music HYFRYDOL by F.H. Pritchard, 1855; Arr. © 2009 Spachtula Music; CCLI License #152421

HE WHO IS MIGHTY

Oh, the mercy our God has shown to those who sit in death's shadow.
The sun on high pierced the night; born was the Cornerstone.
Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born.

Chorus: He who is mighty has done a great thing; taken on flesh, conquered death's sting, Shattered the darkness and lifted our shame. Holy is his name.

Oh, the freedom our Savior won; the yoke of sin has been broken.
Once a slave, now by grace no more condemnation
Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born. **Chorus**

Holy is his name.

Bridge: Now my soul magnifies the Lord. I rejoice in the God who saves
I will trust his unfailing love. I will sing his praises all my days. (repeat) **Chorus**

Holy is his name. Holy is his name.

Words and music by R. Elliott and K. DeGraide, Arr. by J. Brownlee, © 2014 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI). Sovereign Grace Music, a division of Sovereign Grace Minstries.

We acknowledge our need of forgiveness and renewal through the cleansing blood of Jesus

CONFESSION OF SIN

Mighty and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. You are the Wonderful Counselor, yet we have neglected your word and have ignored your wisdom. You are the Mighty God, yet we have doubted your power and failed to bend our knee to your authority. You are the Everlasting Father, yet we have doubted your goodness and squandered our inheritance. You are the Prince of Peace, yet we have failed to be peacemakers ourselves. Forgive us our sins. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God comforts us with his promise of forgiveness in Christ

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

MICAH 7:18-19 (ESV)

Leader: Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity
and passing over transgression
for the remnant of his inheritance?
He does not retain his anger forever,
because he delights in steadfast love.
He will again have compassion on us;
he will tread our iniquities underfoot.
You will cast all our sins
into the depths of the sea.

We enjoy and extend the peace of the gospel to one another

GIVING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Because our sins are forgiven in Christ, we now have peace with God and with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you.

We give thanks to God and bring our needs to him

OFFERTORY PRAYER

You can join us in praying for our community and world; the Flock Notes are available at mcleanpres.org/flocknotes (via login to our online portal, "Connect"). Submit a prayer request card or fill out our online form (mcleanpres.org/prayerrequest).

As recipients of his grace, we give back to God a portion of what is already his

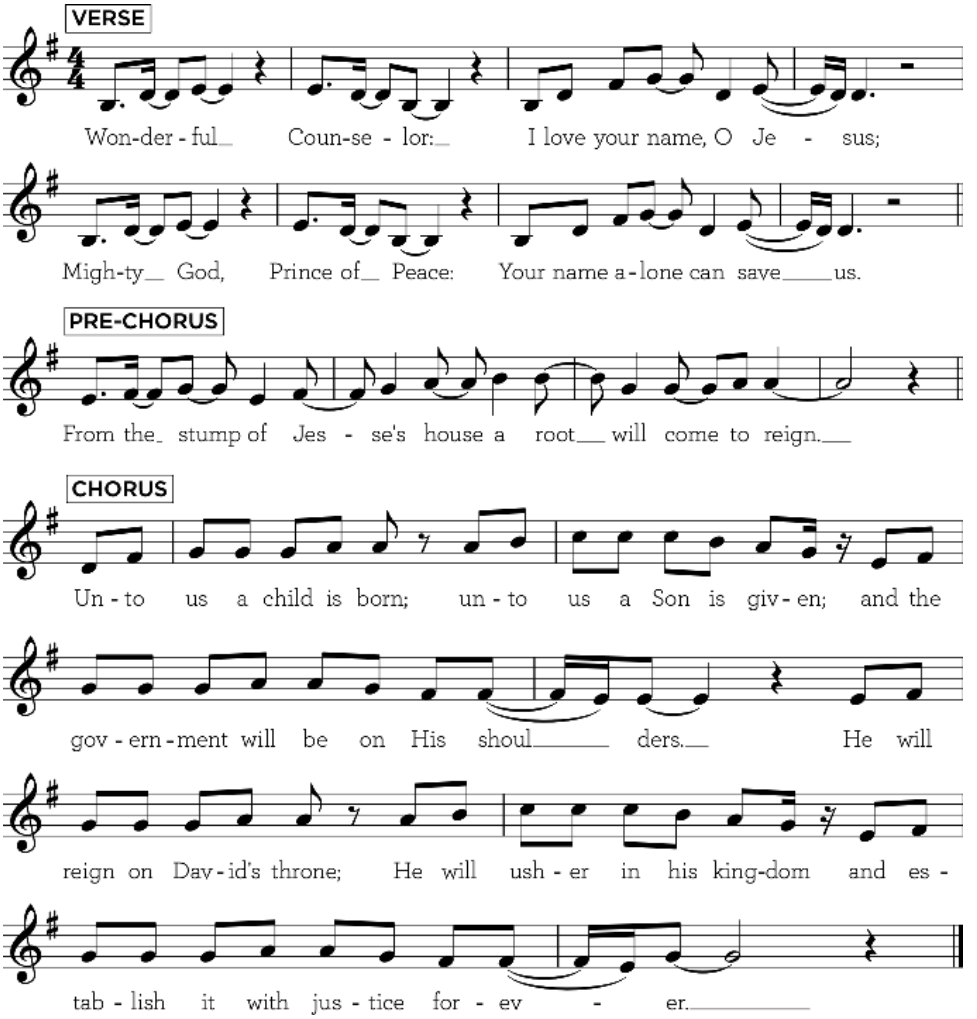
PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We want to be a generous community. In response to the grace we've received, we seek to give cheerfully, diligently, proportionately, and sacrificially (2 Cor 8:1-15). You may place your offering in the plates as they are passed, in boxes at the back, or give online at mcleanpres.org/give or by mail (1020 Balls Hill Rd, McLean, VA 22101).

We ready our hearts to receive the preaching of God's word

SONG OF PREPARATION

UNTO US (WONDERFUL COUNSELOR)



Words & Music by Ben Doggett; Harmony & Orchestration by Andrew Schooley;© 2015 The Falls Church Anglican; CCLI License #152421

God speaks to us through the reading of his word

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 9:1-7 (CHURCH BIBLE P. 573)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

God speaks to us through the preaching of his word

SERMON

WHEN THE LIGHT BREAKS IN

2. The Light We've Been Waiting For

God gives us a visible sign to confirm his covenant promise in Christ

THE LORD'S SUPPER

During the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, true believers who repent of their sins and desire to live as followers of Christ, who revealed himself to be fully God and man in one person, are invited to partake. Children who have not been received by the Session into communing membership after a public confession of faith should refrain even though they may have personally received the Savior, because of the responsibility of the recipient to discern the Lord's body.

We remember Christ's death, celebrate his resurrection, enjoy his presence, and anticipate his return

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26 (ESV)

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

COMMUNION SONGS

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of Lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Words from Liturgy of St. James, Adapt. by G. Moultrie; Music: PICARDY French melody; CCLI License #152421

FULLNESS OF GRACE

Fullness of grace in man's human frailty, this is the wonder of Jesus.
Laying aside his power and glory, humbly he entered our world.
Chose the path of meanest worth: scandal of a virgin birth.
Born in a stable, cold and rejected: here lies the hope of the world.

Fullness of grace, the love of the Father shown in the face of Jesus.
Stooping to bear the weight of humanity, walking the Calvary road.
Christ the holy innocent took our sin and punishment.
Fullness of God, despised and rejected, crushed for the sins of the world.

Fullness of hope in Christ we had longed for, Promise of God in Jesus.
Through his obedience, we are forgiven, op'ning the floodgates of heaven.
All our hopes and dreams we bring gladly as an offering.
Fullness of life and joy unspeakable: God's gift in love to the world.

CCLI Song # 4411752; Words & Music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, & Stuart Townend; © 2004 Thankyou Music; CCLI License #152421

COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry in the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.

In our longing in our darkness, now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry: he the perfect Son of Man.
In his living, in his suff'ring, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam come to save the hell-bound man;
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law in him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry: Christ the Lord upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold,
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry, slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain him. Praise the Lord! He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance, how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected as we will be when he comes.

What a foretaste of deliv'rance, how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected as we will be when he comes.

CCLI Song # 7026028; Words & Music; M. Boswell, M. Papa M. Bleecker © 2012 Bleecker Publishing; McKinney Music, Inc.; Love Your Enemies Publishing; CCLI License # 152421

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spears, shall pierce him through; the cross be born for me, for you:
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Traditional English Carol, Adapt. by W.C. Dix; Melody GREENSLEEVES; Arr. © 2010 Jeff Vogan; CCLI License #152421

O SING A SONG OF BETHLEHEM

O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them from angels in the air.
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today;
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing alway.

O sing a song of Nazareth, of sunny days of joy;
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath, and of the sinless Boy.
For now the flowers of Nazareth in every heart may grow;
Now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.

O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill,
Of him who walked upon the sea and bade the waves be still.
For though like waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll,
When faith has heard the Master's Word, falls peace upon the soul.

O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay,
Of him who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away.
For he who died on Calvary is risen from the grave,
And Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored, is mighty now to save.

For he who died on Calvary is risen from the grave,
And Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored, is mighty now to save.

Words by L.F. Benson, 1889; Music KINGSFOLD; Arr. © 2013 Spachtula Music; CCLI License #152421

As recipients of God's grace, we give to help those in need

PRAYER FOR THE DEACONS' OFFERING

As we've received a tangible expression of God's love for us, we offer a tangible expression of care for those in need. This fund provides assistance for temporary financial needs (rent, healthcare bills, repairs, etc.) for people in our congregation and community. If you or someone you know needs assistance, call our office at 703.821.0800 or contact deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org.

To contribute to the Deacons' Fund, please visit mcleanpres.org/give and select the "Deacons' Fund" designation for your gift.

We respond to God's word through song

SONG OF SENDING

JESUS MESSIAH

He became sin who knew no sin, that we might become his righteousness.
He humbled himself and carried the cross; love so amazing, love so amazing.

Chorus: Jesus, Messiah, name above all names, blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven, Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

His body the bread, his blood the wine, broken and poured out all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn, love so amazing, love so amazing.
Chorus

Bridge: All our hope is in you, all our hope is in you,
All the glory to you, God, the light of the world. **Chorus 2x**

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God sends us out with his blessing

BENEDICTION

NUMBERS 6:24-26

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

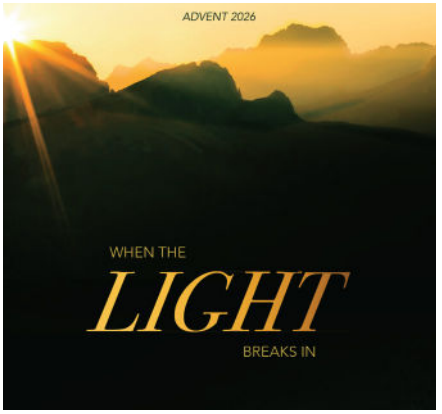
All: Amen. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

We go out with joy and purpose in the Lord

POSTLUDE

ADVENT 2026

Celebrate Christmas with us!



Gather your family and friends and join us this season! There will be opportunities to gather for **worship** and **celebration**, to spend time in **God's Word**, and to invite others to join us. This season culminates in a special candlelight **Christmas Eve service.**

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS |
Copies available at the welcome center. Use this devotional individually or with your family, friends, or Community Group.

YOUNG ADULTS VERY MERRY SOIRÉE | Friday, Dec. 4 | 7:15pm |
Dress up and gather off-site for fellowship, holiday cheer, and celebration!

LIVE NATIVITY & CHRISTMAS SHOW | Saturday, Dec. 12 | 9:30am |
Beloved by families with young children, this event features a live petting zoo, a retelling of the first Christmas story, and more!

DISCIPLESHIP HOUR ACE CLASS | Sunday, Dec. 13 | 10:15am |
Explore the wonder and glory of the incarnation of the Son of God through our class: Emmanuel.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR: STUDENT STRINGS & CAROLING | Sunday, Dec. 20 | 10:15am |
Fellowship Hall | Enjoy caroling and Christmas music performed by our 2nd–12th graders.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES | Thursday, Dec. 24

- **Family Christmas Eve Service | 3:45pm | Fellowship Hall**
  Experience Christmas together as a family with a simple re-telling of the Christmas story and traditional Christmas songs.
- **Candlelight Services | 5pm & 7pm | Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall**
  Celebrate the coming of our Savior with us! *Childcare for ages birth–Pre-K is available at the 5pm service.*

Find all opportunities and resources this season at
mcleanpres.org/advent