



MAPLEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 4, 2026

PRELUDE *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say,*
By Ralph Vaughan Williams 1906
Ian Alvarez – brass variation

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is light in whom there is no darkness!

**As we worship in the light,
may we enter God's presence in joyful worship!**

We open our lives now to the one who empowers our
lives with love and dedication!

**We give thanks to God who fills us with
the light of this day and the hope which holds
us!**

Hymn #611 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*
- Ian Alvarez, piano
- Cathy Draper, flute

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Creating God, your joyful presence draws us into
worship. Thank you for your faithfulness which
comes fresh to us each day. May this time of
worship strengthen our hope as it renews our trust
in you. Lead us now to serve you gladly and
gratefully, imitating the love we find in Jesus. In his
name, we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We acknowledge to God our own brokenness,
honestly offering it to God and trusting in God's grace
to forgive us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you invite us to be persistent in
pursuing your desire for our lives.

***It's easy to lose heart when our requests seem to
go unheard or unheeded.***

When we fall short of that mark, realign our hearts,
renew our vision, and reshape our will.

***Give us the faith to accept finite
disappointments, yet to never lose infinite hope.***

Inspire us to take up our part in your unfolding work
that Jesus began and left us to fulfill.

***We pray in the name of him who served you by
loving and serving others.***

(Time of silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, you know that Christ lived for us, died for us,
and rose again to give us new life. God is faithful and
just, forgiving our lack of faith and calling us onward
in hope.

So we celebrate in the good news that through Christ
we are forgiven!

***So we rejoice in the good news that through
Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!***

Hymn #59 *The Steadfast Love of the Lord* (sung thru
twice)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

We celebrate the grace we know in Christ as we share
the peace Christ gives us with one another. The
peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Hymn # 175 *Seek Ye First*
- Ian Alvarez, piano
- Cathy Draper, flute

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Reading: From Psalm 5

Listen to my words, O Lord.

Pay attention to my sighing.

Listen to the sound of my cry as I pray.

***Lord, in the morning, you hear my voice
as I plead to you and wait for your answer.***

For you are a God who delights in the right
and not in the wrong.

***Lead me in your right way and in your steadfast
love.***

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice, singing for joy.

***Spread your protection over them and cover
them with your peace.***

New Testament Reading: Luke 18:1-8

MESSAGE "When Stubbornness is Saintliness"

Hymn #507 *Come to the Table of Grace*

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION - Ian Alvarez, piano
- Cathy Draper, flute

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

—and dedication of the World Communion Offering

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your 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 yours is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory
now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn #765 *May the God of Hope Go With Us*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Lead on, O King Eternal,*
Music: Henry Thomas Smart 1835
Ian Alvarez – chimes variation