

Order of Worship

August 2, 2026 10:00 AM

Welcome to this time of worship, as we gather in the name of Jesus Christ.

Prelude

Prelude in G

William Harris

Steve McBride, organ

Welcome

Rev. Rodrigo Dacri Lima

Greeting

Leader: Give thanks to God, who is good,

People: whose faithful love lasts forever!

Leader: When we are hungry and thirsty, lost in the wilderness,

People: God satisfies our thirst, and fills the hungry with good things.

Leader: God turns deserts into pools of water, and thirsty ground into springs.

People: So let us worship God.

Hymn

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Prayer of Confession

Leader: God of grace, you call us to wash and be clean,

People: but we are proud.

Leader: You offer us a simple solution to our dis-ease,

People: but we think we are important enough for wonders and grand acts.

Leader: In those times when our pride blocks our sight of your graciousness,

People: wash the scales from our eyes, that we may see.

Leader: For those times we grow too sure of our own importance,

People: forgive us.

...time of silent prayer...

Words of Forgiveness

Rev. Scott Duncan Hopkins

Leader: Here is Good News!

God is willing to cleanse us from our pride, our blindness, our stubborn insistence on having things "our way".

You are free to worship in this place with joy and wholeness.

You are being called out from your shadows of doubt, shame and

fear—feasting at the Table of the Lord in the Community of Grace.

Through God's grace we are washed and forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God! Hallelujah! Amen.

Anthem

Amazing Grace

arr. John Coats

Seraphim

Children's Message

Scripture

Psalm 139:13-24 (The Message)

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Discernment: Letting Go, Letting God

Rev. Hopkins

Hymn

Come and Find the Quiet Center

Verses 1 & 2

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Lima

Offering

You are invited to make your offering to support the ministry and mission of Clarendon UMC.

You may go to the Online Worship page of our website and click "Make your online offering."

Holy Communion

Rev. Hopkins

*In the United Methodist tradition, all who seek to lead a Christian life,
together with their children, are invited to receive communion.*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor continues with the Great Thanksgiving prayer, concluding with:

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

And now with the confidence of children of God,

let us pray as our Lord taught us:

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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.

Communion Anthem

O Esca Viatorum
Seraphim

Heinrich Isaac

Sending Forth

Hymn

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

Benediction

Postlude

Choral Song
Steve McBride, organ

S. S. Wesley

Bulletin cover: Bellini, Giovanni, 1426?-1516. Saint Francis in the Desert, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54928> [retrieved July 23, 2026]. Original source:

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Giovanni Bellini - Saint Francis in the Desert - Google Art Project.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Giovanni_Bellini_-_Saint_Francis_in_the_Desert_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg)

Commentary on the cover art by Devon Abts

A solitary figure dressed in mendicant robes stands atop a rocky mountain ledge. He has risen from his simple eremitic dwelling and, leaving his shoes behind, stepped into a holy kind of light. With arms stretched, eyes raised, and mouth slightly agape, he is in a state of pure, ecstatic joy. The whole world seems arrested by an otherworldly glow as every creature—from the rabbit poking its head out of the ground, to the donkey lifting its attentive ears, to the distant shepherd tending his flock—turns towards this charismatic figure. Even the laurel tree bends its branches

reverently as its leaves are seemingly set ablaze by holy fire. Something miraculous is happening, and we, as beholders of the image, are invited to witness it.

To borrow words from the Victorian poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, 'What is all this juice and all this joy?' ('Spring', line 9).

This is Giovanni Bellini's *St Francis in the Desert*, and the scene it most likely depicts is St Francis of Assisi receiving the *stigmata* (wounds of Christ) on Mount Alverna in 1224. Among a myriad visual representations of this popular narrative, Bellini's is singular. Earlier images show Francis kneeling before heavenly beings and receiving five large wounds on his hands, feet, and side. By contrast, the Venetian artist here represents the miracle with exceptional subtlety, using light to convey divine presence, and with only two faint wounds on the upright saint's hands visible (Hale and Rutherglen 2015: 94). Yet for all its mesmerizing subtlety, the painting also exudes a joyful exuberance. It is a moving portrait of a saint who understood what it means to, 'Rejoice in the Lord always' (Philippians 4:4).

The root word for 'joy' (*charis*) is the most frequently employed term in Paul's Letter to the Philippians (Thurston and Ryan 2009: 94). Yet scholars note that *charis* refers, not to, 'a facile joy in the absence of suffering or difficulty', but rather to the 'deep joy' of identifying with Christ's Passion (Thurston and Ryan 2009: 4). Bellini's *St Francis* is a vivid reminder that Christian joy is always found 'in the Lord', who fills us with his light and transforms us by his love.

<https://thevcs.org/exhortation-attentiveness#rejoice-lord-always>