



**I cared for you in the wilderness**



Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church  
301 Patton Avenue NW, Roanoke, Virginia 24016

*Celebrating 125 Years of Faith & Service*

**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

August 27, 2017

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Organist.....Mr. Frederick Bolden  
Stated Supply Pastor ..... The Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr.

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## **We Assemble in God's Name**

### **Organ and Choral Prelude**

#### **Silent Prayers for Preparation**

*We prepare for worship*

*To your name, Lord Jesus, help me to bow the knee and all its worshipping, bow the head and all its thinking, bow the will and all its choosing, bow the heart and all its loving. Amen.*

#### **Chimes & Lighting of Candles**

**\*Call to Worship.....***from Isaiah 35*

**Leader:** The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.

**People:** *Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way, say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come to save you."*

**Leader:** A highway will be there... and the ransomed of the Lord will return, with singing, as they enter Zion.

**All:** *Everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. Praise the Lord!*

**\*Prayer of Adoration (unison):** Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

\***Hymn of Praise**..... "To God Be the Glory" ..... # 66

\* **An Affirmation of Faith** **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy universal church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

\* **Gloria Patri** ..... "Glory Be to the Father" ..... # 623

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Amen.*

**Invitation to Confession** ..... Worship Leader

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another. Let us pray.

**Prayer of Confession (unison):** Heavenly Father, you never go away from us but we so often go away from you. We are sorry for our lack of trust, for the wrong we have thought and said and done, for the kindness we have failed to show, for our stubbornness and pride, for our grudges and lack of love. Forgive us, we pray. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

**Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Leader:** Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us?

**People:** *Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,  
Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.*

**Leader:** Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

**People:** *The old life has gone; a new life has begun.*

**All:** *In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.*

**\* Passing of the Peace and Welcome of Worshippers +**

**Leader:** Since we have been reconciled with God and with each other,

**People:** *let us now share the peace of God with one another.*

*(Congregation greets one another, exchanging words of peace.)*

**Welcome, Announcements and Concerns of the Church**

**Celebrations and Prayer Concerns.....Worship Leader**

**Prayers of Intercession and The Lord's Prayer.....Rev. Bolden**

*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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**Choral Response..... "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" .....# 614**

**Musical Selection..... The Choir**

**We Proclaim God's Word**

**Scripture Lesson.....Genesis 16.....page 16**

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord! **People:** *Thanks be to God!*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**The Rev. Vernie Bolden, Jr.**

**Sermon**

*"In Your Wilderness"*

**\*Hymn of Commitment.... "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" .....# 51**

**We Give Thanks to God**

**The Offering of Tithes and Gifts**

**Offertory (unison):** Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being: you have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. As we dedicate to you our lives and our offerings, give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

**\* Choral Response**

*All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee.*

\*Hymn of Thanksgiving.... "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" ... ..# 52  
(verses 1, 3, 4 & 6)

## We Go in God's Name

Charge, Benediction and Choral Response

We Carry Our Light Into the World ..... (Congregation Seated)

Closing..... "What a Mighty God We Serve" .....(insert)

\*Those who are able may stand

+ Late worshipers seated

### *Welcome Visitors!*

We are glad you have joined us in worship today. Please fill out the card that the ushers gave you at the door. We hope to see you here again soon. Anyone who is interested in joining this part of Christ's church should speak to the minister or one of the elders.

### *In Memoriam*

Ralph K. Shepperson Sr.

Who entered the Church Triumphant on Thursday, August 24, 2017

*"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth:  
yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors."*

### + Notes from the Pastor +

- Office hours this week: Wednesday & Thursday, August 30 & 31 from noon to 4:00 p.m.
- *Casual Summer Sundays* officially end with Labor Day weekend. But please feel comfortable here, whether in suit & tie or casual dress.—all are welcome in God's house!
- Join us for Bible Study: "Forming Faith" on Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. This week: Genesis 18-19: Sodom & Gomorrah
- Beginning September 24, each 4th Sunday will be both *Bible Study Sunday* and "*Friends & Family Day*". *Not only will the sermon incorporate themes from the month's Bible study sessions, but you are encouraged to invite others to worship and fellowship with us!*
- Please continue to reflect & pray about your participation in Fifth Avenue's journey forward. Your thoughts and ideas are welcomed!

### Other Announcements

- The Adult Choir meets as announced. Come join the fellowship. New members are welcomed.
- *Remember:* Bring a food offering for those less fortunate.

# 478 WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE

*The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
Psalm 50:1*

What a might - y God we serve.

What a might - y God we serve.

An-gels bow be - fore Him. Heav-en and earth a - dore Him.

1. Last time  
2.  
What a might - y God we serve. I con

Next Sunday we will celebrate The Lord's Supper. Sha're Roberson and Nickey Wright will be our servers. Please take some time for prayerful preparation as we come to the Lord's Table in fellowship with one another.

**Remember to Reach Out to and Pray for Members & Friends  
Who are Ill, Lonely, Recovering from Surgery or Shut-In**

Mr. William Copney—7924 Carriage Park Drive NW(24019) 982-6508

Mr. Bob Hale—Salem Health & Rehabilitation Center 355-7837  
1945 Roanoke Blvd, Salem VA 24153

Ms. Lois Hooks—1702 Franwill Ave NW (24017) 345-9173

Mr. Jim Slaughter—1219 Grayson Ave NW (24017) 366-0391

## Congregational Prayer and Pastoral Concerns

**For our pastor and his family; for our ministry together**  
**For our enemies**, both personal and national, including terrorists  
**For our nation and its leadership**, for President Trump; for our state and local officials, and those elected to national office— for wisdom and compassion, for a spirit of cooperation and the overcoming of barriers; for a capacity to seek the greater good instead of personal gain  
**For the leaders of other countries**, and the efforts of all who seek to bring *peace* to the world  
**For unity in the Church**, cooperation among denominations, for people of other faiths and for those who have no faith  
**For all who mourn the deaths of loved ones and friends:** *for the family of Ralph Shepperson; for victims/families of terror attacks in Charlottesville, Barcelona, Finland, and other victims of violence; mudslides in Sierra Leone, floods in China, of fires, earthquakes, victims of Hurricane Harvey & other tropical storms, dealing with the aftermath of both natural disasters and manmade accidents & for those who work to help them rebuild their lives; for those suffering from famine and hunger; for people in our own Roanoke & SW Virginia region*  
**For those battling cancer & other health and life-challenging issues, for those dealing with depression, with addiction; for those recovering from illness or surgery:** Bob Hale, Terry Campbell, Audra Williams, Pat Brown (Ruth's sister), Carolyn Coleman (cousin of Joyce & Fred), Rev. Dusty Fiedler, Anita Pendleton, Jim Slaughter, The Roberson family, Betty McFadden (Russ' mother), Cynthia & Nat Harris, Ruth Hilton, Brenda Williams, Jackie Manns, Harold Robertson, Paul Witting (with Parkinson's); Todd Moorman; health care workers and researchers; for the elderly  
**For our children and youth;** for their teachers & school staff; for those in our neighborhood; for those who work with young people and seek to bring them to Christ and to nurture their faith in him  
**For our service men and women stationed around the world and their families**, including Kevin & Bryan Preston.  
**For those who seek employment, for the under-employed, for the homeless, for those who are in fear of losing their homes or their jobs.**

ΑΩ

*Who hopes for what is seen? If we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (Romans 8:24c-25)*