

This Week!



July 27 9:30 am Traditional Worship,
11:00 am Contemporary Worship, Commissioning Nicaragua Team
11:00 am Youth Impact, Kari's Cove
11:00 am Adult Bible Class, Rm 240
31 5:30 pm Contemporary Worship rehearsal, Sanctuary
August 3 FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY
9:30 am Traditional Worship, 11:00 am Contemporary Worship
11:00 am Youth Impact, Kari's Cove
11:00 am Adult Bible Class, Rm 240
12:00 pm Youth Worship Team, Sanctuary

WELCOME! If you are visiting with us this morning, we are glad you are here! Please stop by our Welcome Desk for a special gift and to learn more about our wonderful church! Use the QR code to tell us know more about you!

NEW MEMBERS CLASS! Want to know more about GBPC? Come to the New Member Class, August 10 at 12:00 pm in Rm 230. Sign up sheet at the Welcome Desk. Lunch will be served.

REMINDER: Sunday, August 3, is Food Pantry Sunday. Please bring non-perishables and place them in the bin across from the Wisdom Well.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE: PDA is coordinating a response to the Texas Hill Country flooding with the Synod of the Sun Partnership for Disaster Recovery and Mission Presbytery. Call, 1-800-728-7228, ext 5885 to give, or go to: <https://pcusa.org/donate/dr000191-disaster-relief-us-flooding> and donate online. Other ways to help, all donations appreciated:

MERCY CHEFS: <https://mercychefs.com/> Locally based in Portsmouth.

KERRYVILLE PETS ALIVE: 830-200-0539 Works to feed pets and reunite w/families.

AMERICAN RED CROSS: redcross.org or call 830-733-2767

AUGUST REMINDER: During the month of August children worship with parents. We do not have Sunday School, but we do have "Words to the Children" and activity bags.

GIVING is a natural overflow of a heart that is grateful for Jesus, who gave everything for us. A secure link for electronic giving is available on the church's website at www.gbpres.org or by scanning the QR code.

Check our website for updates: <https://www.gbpres.org>

Thank you for joining us for worship today. There's a place for you here!

Great Bridge Presbyterian Church, 333 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA (757)547-4706

"Sharing Christ's love, equipping God's people" ~ Founded 1964



Great Bridge Presbyterian Church

July 27, 2025, 9:30 am

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome! We are glad you are here!

**Please stand in body or in spirit as you are able.*

*Congregation reads **bold** print.*

Prelude Prelude from A Festival of Hymns: the Writers Tell Their Stories*

*See Music Notes

Hal H. Hopson

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Rev. Dr. Donna DeSarro-Raynal

You are here, on this path, in this moment.

And God is here, too, walking beside us.

In light and shadow, God's presence surrounds us.

Let us worship with hearts open to the journey ahead.

***Hymn of Praise** No. 402 How Lovely Lord, How Lovely

*MERLE'S TUNE

*See Music Notes

*Call to Confession

Nancy Wolfe, Liturgist

The psalmist King David wrote, "Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and you forgave the guilt of my sin." Let us confess our sin before God and one another, assured of God's mercy in Jesus Christ, first in silent prayer.

*Silent Confession

***Prayer of confession** Nancy Wolfe, Liturgist
God of light and dark, we come to you as people on the journey, sometimes unsure of where we are or where we’re going. We carry with us the weight of fear, doubt, and regret—the times we’ve stumbled in the dark and second-guessed your guiding presence. But we know: You are here, O God. You forgive us. Your light shines even in the shadowy places. Your love surrounds us all and helps us to turn back to follow as Christ teaches. Help us now to trust in you always. Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness** Rev. Dr. Donna DeSarro-Raynal
Brothers and Sisters in Christ, take heart: God’s grace meets us wherever we are. No matter the ways we go or choose, Christ’s love leads us back on the path. Believe the GoodNews—We are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

***Response** No. 447 We Are Forgiven Hal H. Hopson
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Passing the Peace

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts *See Music Notes Hal H. Hopson
Billye Brown Youmans, soloist

O Jesus, joy of loving hearts, the fount of life, the light of all.
From ev’ry bliss that earth imparts we turn, unfilled to hear your call.
For you our restless spirits yearn, where're our changing lot is cast;
Glad when your smile on us you turn, blest when by faith we hold you fast.
O Jesus, ever with us stay! Make all our moments calm and bright!
Oh, chase the cloud of sin away! Shed o’er the world your holy light.

***Doxology** No. 608 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Hal H. Hopson
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.

***Prayer of Dedication** *(Congregation will be seated following the prayer.)*

Scripture Psalm 139:1-3, 11-14, OT, pgs. 577-578 Nancy Wolfe, Liturgist

Anthem Be Thou My Vision arr. Hal H. Hopson
Lee Anne Lamkin, Narendra Pleas, flutes

Scripture Ruth 1:11-18, OT, pg. 241 Rev. Dr. Donna DeSarro-Raynal

Sermon “God Lights Our Path” Rev. Dr. Donna DeSarro-Raynal

Closing Hymn Now Thank We All Our God Hal H. Hopson
from A Festival of Hymns:: The Writers Tell Their Stories

ALL verse 1 Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices:
who from our mothers’ arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Choir only, verse 2

ALL verse 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav’n adore;
or thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude Postlude from A Festival of Hymns:: The Writers Tell Their Stories
Hal H. Hopson

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***Worship and Music notes:*** We honor the life and legacy of Hal H. Hopson today in our worship service.

Hal H. Hopson (1933-2025) was welcomed into heaven, Sunday, July 20. He was a full-time composer and church-musician and known the world over for his contributions to church music that spanned every form of music with over 3,000 published works. He was still composing until very recently. Hal visited Great Bridge Presbyterian in 2000 with the Virginia Wesleyan Sacred Music Conference in a worship service that premiered, “A Festival of Hymns: The Writers Tell Their Stories.” All the music for worship today was composed or arranged by Hal. The hymn, “How Lovely, Lord”, a setting of Psalm 84, is named MERLE’S TUNE for his sister, Merle. The choir commissioned Hal to compose an anthem in 2009 on the occasion of my 15th anniversary. It has since been published, now available to everyone. In 2012, he published a collection of three solos. I am humbled that one is dedicated to me. This solo is the offertory for today. On a personal note, Hal and Martha Hopson have been friends with Rusty and me for decades. He played for our wedding at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tennessee. His cantata, God With Us, was one of the few compositions selected by a panel at the Kennedy Space Center, Washington, DC, to be placed in a capsule during the American Bicentennial in 1976. The capsule will be opened at the Tricentennial in 2076 and will be heard again as a representative piece of American choral composition of this century. Rusty and I sang the premiere of this work in Nashville, TN, at Vine Street Christian Church. We pray for his wife, Martha, their children, Maria, Carol and John and their families at this difficult time.