ROSLYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
140 EAST BROADWAY
ROSLYN, NEW YORK

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 10:00 AM

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE/WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE PRAISE OUR GOD

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)
One: We do not need to impress God this morning.
People: You do not need to prove that you belong.
One: Come because Christ has already made a way for you.
People: Some of us arrive today with heavy hearts, some with worries that nobody else can see.
One: Come because Christ has already made a way for you.
People: Some of us arrive today with heavy hearts, some with worries that nobody else can see.
One: Come because Christ has already made a way for you.

* HYMN: 690 (Red Hymnal) *He Leadeth Me*

PRAYER OF THE DAY
God of Grace and Mercy, You lead us by the hand into the deserts of our lives and search our hearts and call us into your vineyard not by our own merits, but by your grace. When we are thirsty and quarrel in the wilderness, You provide for us from the Rock of your salvation. Grant us the mind of Christ, who humbled himself in total obedience. Turn our reluctant "no" into a faithful "yes," that our actions may match our professions. Guide our feet in your truth, and teach the humble your ways. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

("*" invites all who are able to stand. **Bold** indicates reading or *singing* in unison.)

ANTHEM: *Spirit of the Living God* Iverson
Spirit of the Living God, Fall fresh on me, Spirit of the Living God, Fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the Living God, Fall fresh on me. Soul of heaven, heart of God, Wash over me. Soul of heaven, heart of God, Wash over me. Cleanse me, teach me, hold me, reach me. Soul of heaven, heart of God, Wash over me.

CALL TO CONFESSION/PRAYER OF CONFESSION
All: All-embracing God, we confess we don't like to feel uncomfortable. We often turn away from suffering or injustice, even when the evidence is right before our eyes. We don't like to feel responsible for reaching out, even when we could. Forgive us, O God. Give us courage to love others as you love us, and respond with the same mind we meet in Christ Jesus. Amen.
(Please take a moment for silent reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* GLORIA PATRI 579 (Blue Hymnal) *Glory Be to the Father*
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.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING
All: Send us your Spirit of wisdom, O God, so that we may hear your Word speaking through the Scriptures with ears that understand and hearts that respond in love. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 2:1-13 (THE MESSAGE)
1-4 If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you *care*—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. 5-8 Think of yourselves the way Christ

Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human*! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion. [9-11] Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father. [12-13] What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I'm separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is *God's* energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21:23-32 (THE MESSAGE)
[23] Then he was back in the Temple, teaching. The high priests and leaders of the people came up and demanded, "Show us your credentials. Who authorized you to teach here?" [24-25] Jesus responded, "First let me ask you a question. You answer my question and I'll answer yours. About the baptism of John—who authorized it: heaven or humans?" [25-27] They were on the spot and knew it. They pulled back into a huddle and whispered, "If we say 'heaven,' he'll ask us why we didn't believe him; if we say 'humans,' we're up against it with the people because they all hold John up as a prophet." They decided to concede that round to Jesus. "We don't know," they answered. Jesus said, "Then neither will I answer your question. [28] "Tell me what you think of this story: A man had two sons. He went up to the first and said, 'Son, go out for the day and work in the vineyard.' [29] "The son answered, 'I don't want to.' Later on he thought better of it and went. [30] "The father gave the same command to the second son. He answered, 'Sure, glad to.' But he never went. [31-32] "Which of the two sons did what the father asked?" They said, "The first." Jesus said, "Yes, and I tell you that crooks and whores are going to precede you into God's kingdom. John came to you showing you the right road. You turned up your noses at him, but the crooks and whores believed him. Even when you saw their changed lives, you didn't care enough to change and believe him.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord
People: Glory to You, O God

MESSAGE *Be still & "Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is God's energy, an energy deep within you."*
The Rev. Dr. James Barnum

* HYMN: 712 (Red Hymnal) *Be Still, My Soul*

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of Belhar)
We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

That God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world; that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work

obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people on a racial basis promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity; that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS FOR PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER
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.

CALL TO OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Generous God, we have received so much from you in Christ and in creation. Bless the gifts we offer so that they will speak of your love for the world in all its detail and diversity. May our gifts touch the need around us in the name of Christ who makes us one. Amen.

* HYMN: 87 (Red Hymnal) *Fairest Lord Jesus*

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL *Go Now in Peace*
Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen, Amen, Amen.

POSTLUDE

THE WORSHIP IS OVER, LET THE SERVICE BEGIN

Rev. Dr. James Barnum	Pastor
Dr. Gary de Sesa	Director, Ministry of Music
Dr. Natalie Naylor	Clerk of Session
Dr. Robert Gilmore	Treasurer

Kita de Sesa is our Soprano soloist.

Assisting in today's service is Jonathan Parsons.

Refreshments Hosts for today are Mary & Michael Matos.

Next Sunday's scriptures:
Psalm 105:1-6; Matthew 14:22-33

October Birthdays
10/18 Maya Leibfreid

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Helen Lockman	Cynthia Randall
Steve Kirschman	Dawn and John de Sesa
Gary B. de Sesa	Sam Rizzo
Emmie Shoch	Regina Maria
Ray Peres	Gerry Catalanello
Sylvia McAdams	Stefania Cecchini
Family of Steven Panzella	Family of Janine Francolini
Chet Scire	William Cornell
Lawrence Topel	Willy Geddish
Jasmina & Jaiden Allen	Paula Liscio
Dr. Klaus Dittmar	

We pray for PEACE in the world and especially the Middle East and a just resolution between Iran and our country; Ukraine and Russia; along with all victims and their families from the Gaza/Lebanon-Israeli conflict and all nations that are at war. We pray for all families who are in need, and those who are grieving their loved ones.