

*Welcome to Roland Park Presbyterian Church.
We're glad you're here!*

September 20, 2026



*And this wise man said: stop. He said, stop asking God to bless what you're doing.
Get involved in what God is doing — because it's already blessed.*

~ Bono



ROLAND PARK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOME

*Thank you for joining us today. We hope that today's service will be meaningful for you.
You can always visit our website for the latest happenings and information.*

<https://www.rolandparkchurch.org/>

*If this is your first time with us, you can email Pastor Mark to introduce yourself and
learn more about the congregation: pastor@rolandparkchurch.org*

*If you would like to connect with our Christian Education Program, please email our
Director of Christian Education, Dr. Shayla Redfearn: DCE@rolandparkchurch.org*

*To connect with our choirs, please email our Director of Music, Dr. Phillip Collister-Murray:
pcollister@towson.edu*

*All are welcome in our worship service, including infants and children. We also have a nursery room
where childcare is provided. With the exception of the first Sunday of each month, there is also an
optional "Bridge to Worship" time where children may choose to leave the sanctuary with our Christian
Education team to engage in an age-appropriate worship activity. It will be announced and children
will be invited to come forward. They will return to the sanctuary by the end of the service.*

*If you have any questions or need help finding anything,
please ask anyone wearing a name tag. We will be happy to help you.*

**If you are able, please stand.*

AUDIOFETCH HEARING ASSISTANCE



Stream Real Time Audio to Your Personal Device

1. Download and open the free AudioFetch app from the app store on your device.
2. In the sanctuary, connect your device Wi-Fi to the network: AudioFetchExpress.
3. Connect your device to air pods or earbuds to listen to real time audio streaming.

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY
September 20, 2026 10:30 AM

PRELUDE

Psalm prelude no. 2
Esther Lee, organ

Herbert Howlls

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

At every age and stage of life,
God calls us to follow into blessing.
In every situation, whether celebration or grief,
God calls us to follow into blessing.
Just as we are, with our whole life story,
God calls us to follow, and be a blessing.

***HYMN #49**

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

49 The God of Abraham Praise

1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,
 2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
 3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
 4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;

the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
 In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.

The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
 Es - tab - lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:

we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
 the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You call, God, and you promise.
You invite us into partnership,
and we confess that we have mostly tried to do things ourselves.
We spend our energy making something of ourselves,
securing our future, keeping up, defending our way of life.
And when you call us to a new thing,
we admit we sometimes think “we’ve done our bit, can you send someone else?”
Forgive us for hearing your word
and still believing we had to take matters into our own hands.
Forgive us for acting as if you have only a finite amount of blessing to go around.
Forgive us for putting a time and age limit on your calling.
Speak to us once again, and give us ears to hear and feet ready to go
to be a blessing to your world in need of good news.
We ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.

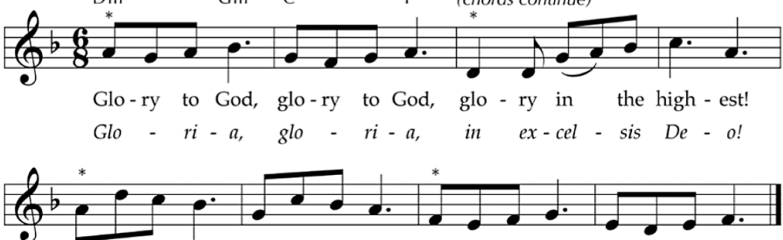
Time of Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

Hear and believe this good news: It is never too late. God’s grace is right now, and God’s blessing is from everlasting to everlasting. Trust the Spirit’s call and let the blessing be for you, and through you. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

GLORY TO GOD

Capo 3: (Bm) (Em) (A) (D)
Dm Gm C F (chords continue)



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Bright Canaan
Chancel Choir

Traditional American Hymn
arr. Alice Parker

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

You call us out, O God, into your holy land — a place you show us and promise to appear. We pass through, uncertain which parts are holy, looking for you, wondering how we'll know. Make this a holy place today that we may see you here and recognize your blessing poured out into us, and through us. Amen.

GOD'S STORY

Genesis 12: 1-9

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

What Is Already Blessed?

Pastor Mark

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

*HYMN #686

God of Our Life

SANDON

God of Our Life

686

1 God of our life, through all the cir-cle years, we trust in thee.
 2 God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us a - bide.
 3 God of the com - ing years, through paths un-known we fol-low thee.

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.
 Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land. Be thou our guide.
 When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone. Our ref-uge be.

With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,
 With thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,
 Be thou for us in life our dai - ly bread,

we own thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
 and faith's fair vi - sion chang - es in - to sight.
 our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

This text was created for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by its pastor. He wrote these words especially for this tune, originally composed for John Henry Newman's text "Lead, Kindly Light."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

During the prayer there will be a time for you to give voice to your own prayers, after which the leader will say, "Lord, in your mercy," or "Lord, we give thanks," and the entire congregation responds, "Hear our prayer."

THE 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.

OFFERING

*We offer our time, talent and treasure in gratitude to God. Thank you for your gifts in support of our shared ministry. For your convenience, we offer these electronic giving options (fees involved):
Use PayPal @RolandParkChurch or Text RPPC to 73256 and follow prompts.*

Offertory

Exsultate justi
Chancel Soloists

Lodovico Viadana

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright. Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

*Doxology (Hymn #606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #51

To Abraham and Sarah

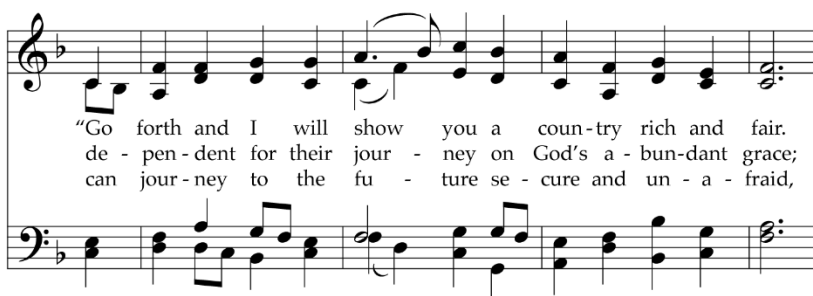
LLANFLYLLIN

51 To Abraham and Sarah

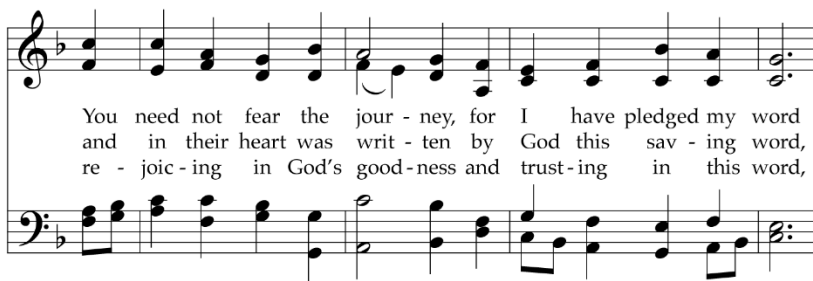
I Will Be Your God



1 To A - bra - ham and Sa - rah the call of God was clear:
 2 From A - bra - ham and Sa - rah a - rose a pil - grim race,
 3 We of this gen - er - a - tion on whom God's hand is laid



"Go forth and I will show you a coun - try rich and fair.
 de - pen - dent for their jour - ney on God's a - bun - dant grace;
 can jour - ney to the fu - ture se - cure and un - a - fraid,



You need not fear the jour - ney, for I have pledged my word
 and in their heart was writ - ten by God this sav - ing word,
 re - joic - ing in God's good - ness and trust - ing in this word,



that you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."
 "That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."
 "That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."

This hymn condenses the narrative of Genesis 17:1–22 and grounds it in the recurring statement of the covenant relationship between God and the people God has chosen. This Welsh tune also occurs in a minor version called LLANGLOFFAN, used elsewhere in this hymnal (see no. 362).

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Following today's service you are invited to join us for a time of fellowship.

POSTLUDE

Preludium und Fuge in g minor
Esther Lee, organ

Dietrich Buxtehude

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS TODAY

*We look to our Lord for strength and healing. We look to each other to see our Lord in action. We remember all those in harm's way, those recovering from natural disasters, refugees and people in conflict, and facing new challenges. Among our church family: **Mary Helen Matava** (sister of Kathy Matava), the friends and loved ones of **Janet Estes** (sister of Phillip Collister-Murry), **Farrell Silverberg** (father of soloist Hannah Silverberg), **Darlene George**, **Jim Elmore**, **Dave Patron and family** (on the loss of his father), the **community of Roland Park** and **David & Danny Guillaume** along with the staff and children of **Kay Papa Nou & Unity House**.*

IN GRATITUDE FOR OUR MUSIC MAKERS

Director of Music: Dr. Phillip Collister-Murray

Organist: Esther Lee

Chancel Choir & Soloists*: Mary Agnes Evans, Elaine Gradowski, Emily Gradowski*, Sharon Halm, Katie Hosier*, Troy Koger*, Carolyn Kramer, Carlotta Kutz*, Peter Murphy*, Dave Patron, Ginny Rutherford, Sandy Rybczynski, Barrie Sigler, Hannah Silverberg*, Jennifer Smith*, John Walkup, Steven Soltow*

Handbell Choir: Beth Bishop, Jackie Capecci, Elaine Gradowski, Emily Gradowski, Laura Hirschfeld, Katie Hosier, Carolyn Kramer, Richard Letocha, Holden McAleer, Dave Patron, Sandy Rybczynski, Jennifer Smith, Sharon Halm (emeritus)

*Denotes soloist

IN GRATITUDE FOR OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist: Chris White

IN PREPARATION FOR NEXT SUNDAY

September 27, 2026, 10:30 AM Worship. Guest Preacher: The Rev. Christa Burns

IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Unless otherwise noted, today's Liturgy is written by the Rev. Teri Petersen of the BibleWorm podcast <https://www.biblewormpodcast.com/>.

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Pursuing Justice · Practicing Hospitality · Engaging Curious Faith

CHURCH STAFF

Mark W. Hanna, *Pastor*
Phillip Collister-Murray, *Director of Music*
Esther Lee, *Organist*
Shayla Redfearn, *Director of Christian Education*
Jennifer Ronald, *Director of Church Relations*
Caroline Mapp, *Bookkeeper*
Tony Mason, *Custodian*
Sahara Wyatt, *Childcare Coordinator*
Alaina Mason, *Childcare Assistant*

pastor@rolandparkchurch.org
pcollister@towson.edu
estherlee1010@gmail.com
dce@rolandparkchurch.org
office@rolandparkchurch.org
bookkeeper@rolandparkchurch.org
custodian@rolandparkchurch.org

BOARD OF ELDERS

Maggie Arnold (2029**)
Laura Cochran (2028*)
Dan Evans, *Treasurer*
Meghan Friedman (2027**)
Mark W. Hanna, *Moderator*
Laura Hirschfeld (2027*)
Mary Ann Jones (2028*)
Richard Letocha (2029*)
Kathy Matava (2028**)
Suzette Morgan (2027*)
Dave Patron (2028**)
David Patterson (2029*), *Clerk*
Howard Rutherford (2027*)
Chris White (2029**)

BOARD OF DEACONS

Rhet Arnold (2029***)
R.T. Arnold (2029*)
Carol Curtis (2028*)
Julie Evans (2028*)
Rob Hirschfeld (2027*), co-moderator
Carolyn Kramer (2027*)
Katie Marsh (2028***)
Elayne Provost (2028**), co-moderator
Sequoia Simermeyer (2029*)
Christine Tennes (2028**)
Susan Walkup (2027*)
Alex Wolfgang (2028***)
* indicates 1st term, ** 2nd term,
*** student



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

An inclusive and welcoming
congregation of the
Presbyterian Church (USA) and
the Presbytery of Baltimore.

ROLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ADDRESS

4801 Roland Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21210

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

WEBSITE

RolandParkChurch.org

PHONE

410.889.2001

EMAIL

office@rolandparkchurch.org

FOLLOW US

@RolandParkPC

