

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Source of all that gives us life, we have turned away from your authority to our own small concerns. Forgive us for our failure to bear one another’s burdens, for boasting of anything but your cross, for believing in our own power to justify our lives, and for denying your call to take comfort in you alone. Lead us to the river of life that in all we do, we may honor your name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**THE WORD**

TIME WITH OUR YOUNG CHURCH Jen Jammer

PSALM READING Psalm 66:1-9 Polly Angel

ANTHEM There Is A Balm in Gilead arr. Burson

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 66:10-14

MESSAGE Called In, week 4: Called to Comfort  
Rev. Chip Stapleton

**RESPONSE**

†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 catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY His Eye Is on the Sparrow arr. Tornquist

†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

**SENDING**

†HYMN **It Is Well with My Soul**

**When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot Thou hast taught me to say,  
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”  
It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul),  
It is well with my soul.  
And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,  
“Even so” - it is well with my soul.  
It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul),  
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

†BLESSING & BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE Attende Domine Callahan  
(Hear Us, Almighty God)

†All who are able, please stand



**Worship Leaders**

Rev. Chip Stapleton, Senior Minister  
Pam Langston, Dir. of Music Ministries  
Jen Jammer, Dir. of Children’s Ministry  
Chris Jackson, Dir. of Youth Ministry

Hello Highlanders,  
Most of us, whether we have plans to travel or not, are already looking forward to and planning for the upcoming long Holiday weekend. For good reason, July 4th is one of the biggest and most important holidays every year in our country.

It is a day when we remember and celebrate our nation’s founders, the path towards freedom that they blazed for all of us, and the central value and importance of freedom itself.

America and American democracy is often described as an ‘experiment’ - mostly a government of, for, and by the people had never been tried on a national scale. It is a good term, but I prefer to think of America in terms of relationships. I think a more apt descriptor for our nation and it’s values/ government is that of a marriage.

We celebrate July 4th as independence day, because that is when we proclaimed it in 1776, but much like the relationship of the wedding day to a marriage, this was only the beginning of the story. America’s freedom from British rule wouldn’t be accomplished until 7 full years later (August of 1783) and even then, England wasn’t ready to finally give up control, restarting the fight in the War of 1812.

The point is that our freedom isn’t given to us because we proclaim it, or because we say we value it. Instead, our freedom is gained - and maintained by what we do next. Some brave souls have given their lives in defense of this freedom, but all of us have a responsibility to it.

Importantly it is always a work in progress: it took over a century for all men to be given that freedom and it took even longer for all men and women to be viewed equally. For our country to remain free, we must continue to work to make it so.

We can view our freedom in Christ in a similar way. We often think of this freedom as ‘freedom from’ - and it is that, it is freedom from sin, death, and destruction. But, importantly, it is also ‘freedom for’. Christ has given us our freedom so that we might orient our hearts and lives towards him and then others. We have been freed for service in our loving creators name, so that all might know his love.

*Sharing God’s Love*  
~Chip

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**~~~PASTORAL CONCERNS~~~**

***We ask that you keep our home-bound in your thoughts and prayers.***

P.W. and Martha Jessup	Steve & Orion Gaynos
Jean Robinson	Madie Rae Locklear
Lisa Hitt	("Grandma" to the Guy Family)
(daughter of Gayle McDonald)	Lib Yarborough
Charlotte Ingram	Bill Johnson
June Marie Smith	Patsy Thames
Doris English	Gayle McDonald
John English	

Please let us know if you have concerns that you think the church should know about. Please limit to close-extended family. We will put their names (and relation to you if you desire) in the email update. The names will be removed after a few weeks unless requested otherwise. Thank you.

Kelli Lujan 401-0928 or email [kellilu@gmail.com](mailto:kellilu@gmail.com)

