edgewood
presbyterian church (PCUSA)

Our Mission

We joyfully proclaim the gospel of God's love. As a diverse and inclusive community of believers, we celebrate our unity in Christ. We believe we are called to compassionate service in our congregation, in our community and in the world. We invite all who want to explore the great mystery of faith and paths of discipleship to join us.

OUR STAFF

Pastor
Rev. Joe Genau

Director of Music
Amanda Klimko

Accompanist
Marsha Alexander

Office Manager
Kathy Tracey

Nursery Director
Rose Finkelstein

Youth Leaders
Rev. Joe Genau
Grace Burgess
Amy Crowe
Rosemary Leach
Fran Woodruff

Audio / Video
Cellina Miller

MORE LIGHT PRESBYTERIANS
A MEMBER CONGREGATION

"I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old..." – Psalm 78:2

Photo: Planet Word, Washington, D.C.
by Joe Genau

LARGE PRINT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY

850 Oxmoor Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35209
www.edgewoodpc.org • 205-871-4302
205-718-9832 < pastor's cell phone >

1 YEAR TOGETHER, ROOTED IN 252 YEARS OF SERVICE

*Please text any prayer requests to 205-924-5080 before the Sharing of the Peace. Please include your name unless you wish the request to be anonymous.

Prayer of Preparation *(Silent Prayer)*

O God, help me find truth and hope and a great story of love in your holy Word. Amen.

Chiming of the Trinity

The Waters of Baptism

All children are invited to gather at the baptismal font.

Prelude *Be Thou My Vision*

Tune: SLANE, Ancient Irish melody; arr. Edward Broughton

***Welcome**

***Call to Worship** Liturgists
Liz Deslattes & Harrison Deslattes-White

Teach us your way, O Lord, that we may walk in your truth; unite our hearts to hallow your name.
We give thanks to you with our whole selves, and we will glorify your name together forever.

Help us to teach our children, and our children's children, to meditate on your instruction and give praise to your name.
Help us to teach them through words and actions what it means to follow your Son.

*Those who are able, please stand. **BOLD** indicates unison

Help us to stay curious.
To see your creation with eyes of wonder and minds open to holy possibilities.

Teach us grace.
Teach us peace.

***Prayer of the Day**

***Hymn 515** *I Come with Joy* DOVE OF PEACE

1 I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

2 I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

4 The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here,
alive among us here.

5 Together met, together bound by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

Invitation to Reconciliation

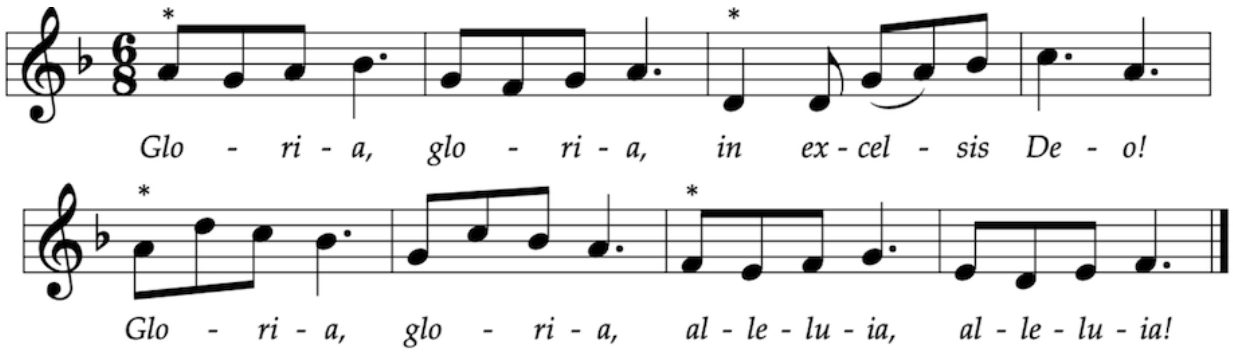
Prayer of Brokenness

O God, the author of our lives, we confess that we sometimes forget that what we have learned is not ours to keep for ourselves.
Forgive us for the doors we leave closed, the questions we dismiss, the stories we refuse to hear, and the knowledge we treat as a possession rather than a gift. Forgive the ways we make the world harder to enter – for those who are learning, for those who speak differently, for those whose stories have too often been overlooked or silenced.
Give us the generosity to share what we know and the wisdom to listen. Grant us the wonder of children: the courage of questions and the imagination to believe that the world can be larger than we thought. Through Christ, the living Word, who meets us wherever we are and invites us into a larger story, we pray...
(silent prayer)

Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, and restored to new life!

Gloria (Hymn 583)

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter **Psalm 78: 1-7**

[1]*Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;*
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
[2]**I will open my mouth in a parable;**
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
[3]**things that we have heard and known,**
that our ancestors have told us.

[4]*We will not hide them from their children;*
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD,
and his might, and the wonders that he has done.
[5]**God established a decree in Jacob,**
and appointed a law in Israel, which God commanded
our ancestors to teach to their children;

[6]*that the next generation might know them, the children yet*
unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,
[7]**so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget**
God's works, but keep God's commandments...

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Lesson

Acts 8: 26-40 *(pew Bible page 127)*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon ***"The Imagination Library"***

Kaelyn Christian

***Hymn 451** *Open My Eyes, That I May See* OPEN MY EYES

1 Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me. Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

2 Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear. And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

3 Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere. Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!

***Sharing of the Peace**

Announcements for the Community of Faith

Call to Offering

Offertory *Light of a Clear Blue Morning* Dolly Parton; arr. Mac Huff

It's been a long dark night and I've been awaiting for the morning.
It's been a long hard fight, but I see a brand-new a-dawning.
I've been looking for the sunshine, you know, I ain't seen in so long.
And everything's gonna work out just fine.
And everything's gonna be alright that's been all wrong.
Refrain: 'Cause I can see the light of a clear blue morning.
I can see the light of a brand-new day.
I can see the light of a clear blue morning.
Oh, and everything's gonna be alright, it's gonna be okay.
It's been a long, long time, since I've known the taste of freedom.
Those clinging vines, that had me bound, well, I don't need 'em. I've been like a captured eagle, you know, an eagle's born to fly. Now that

I have won my freedom, like an eagle I am eager for the sky. ***Refrain***
I can see the light of a clear blue morning. I can see the light of a brand-new day. I can see the light of a clear blue morning. Oh, and everything's gonna be alright, everything's gonna be alright, everything's gonna be alright, it's gonna be okay. ***Refrain***

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

***Doxology Hymn 607** OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

***Invitation to the Lord's Table**

Servers*:* Elizabeth Deslattes, Rosemary Leach, Joan Reisinger

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

…we join our voices …
Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

…we are bold to lift our voices praying the prayer Jesus taught his disciples:

***The Lord's Prayer**

***Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup**

***Communion of the People**

Music at Communion *Father, We Praise You* Gerald Peterson

Concerns of the Church & Prayers of the People

***Hymn 765** *Song of Hope* ARGENTINA

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all; working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Spanish
¡Dios de la esperanza, danos gozo y paz! Al mundo en crisis, habla tu verdad. Dios de la justicia, mándanos tu luz,
luz y esperanza en la oscuridad. Oremos por la paz,
cantemos de tu amor. Luchemos por la paz, fieles a ti, Señor.

Congregation Meeting

Elders: Aaron Feld, Lynne Hutton, Bill Woodruff

Deacons: Deanna Dailey, Anthony Hardin

Charge from the Steps

***Charge and Benediction** Rev. Joe Genau

***Postlude** *Trumpet Tune*
Jean-Joseph Mouret (1682-1738); arr. Patricia Lou Harris