

**Holston Presbytery**  
**Stated Meeting August 2, 2025**  
**Worship**

all hymns are from *Glory to God*

\*\*indicates it is appropriate to stand, whether in body or spirit

**GATHERING**

**Opening Words:** This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad it in!

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship:**

Elder Kathi Cary

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good,

**For God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those God redeemed from trouble

**And gathered in from the lands, from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south.**

Let us worship God!

**Hymn**

***Here in This Place***

GTG 401

**Call to Confession**

Elder Gary Helton

**Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**Holy God, you give us all we need, but we continue to desire more. We are people who ask for our daily bread, yet feel there is never enough. We protect what is "ours," while watching others who have nothing cry out for relief. We cry out for justice, yet do not speak out against injustice; we look for signs of your goodness, yet do not see the pain of your children; we reach out to claim your grace and love for ourselves, yet ignore those who reach out to us for help. Forgive us, Lord. Break our hearts so that we will speak your truth, see the work set before us, and reach out to those who need you – and us. Hear our prayer and lead us in your ways.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Elder Gary Helton

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Please take a moment to exchange signs of peace and love with those around you.

## **Prayer of Lament**

Today we take a few moments to bear witness to the great cloud of witnesses that make up the congregations of Mt Hermon Presbyterian Church, Zion Presbyterian Church, Chuckey Presbyterian Church, and Barton Springs Presbyterian Church. Let us give thanks for their life and witness and lament the end of their ministry in this life. Let us pray:

God who called the very cosmos into being, you have also called us by name and claimed us as your own. You have brought us together in communities of faith, hope, love, and witness so that your love for the whole world could be shared. Today we honor four congregations whose decades of life together and as part of Holston Presbytery have brought the good news to the world: the generations of children in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, the nurture through shared meals, the communion they shared among themselves, and in their communities. We lift up the lives of the saints who make up these congregations and ask your blessing on their legacy.

For Mt Hermon Presbyterian Church, whose members stood up against injustice in the form of racism, but never forgot that all humans are created in the image of God we are grateful for the years of love and service in Big Stone Gap. For their witness to and commitment to serving their community, we give thanks and ask your blessing.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For Zion Presbyterian Church, whose church grounds were given by those who were early pioneers and members of the Continental Army, and where many of the members rest peacefully in the cemetery on those church grounds, we ask your blessing on those that came before us to blaze a trail for other congregations to continue the work of being salt and light in the world. For their constancy and love, we give thanks and ask your blessing.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For Chuckey Presbyterian Church, the little church on the highway, we give thanks for the work of years of witness and worship. We ask that you bless our every thought of them, and inspire us to work to give new life to their facility to honor the love and faith that created and maintained it. For their ministry of presence, we give thanks and ask your blessing.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For Barton Springs Presbyterian Church, where great faith and great dedication marked the congregation for so many years, we offer up prayers of thanksgiving for their many years of service, and for their understanding that for new things to rise up, often something valued must die. For their understanding of your grace and witness to the promise of new life in you, we give thanks and ask your blessing.

**Lord hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we lift up to you all those that went before and served in these congregations, pray that their names are written in the Book of Life, and that we will all lift our voices together again when we join you in the life to come. In the unity of the Spirit, through the grace of Christ, and confident in the love of God, we pray.

**AMEN.**

|             |   |         |
|-------------|---|---------|
| <b>Hymn</b> | <b><i>In the Bulb There is a Flower</i></b> | GTG 250 |
|-------------|---|---------|

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Prayer for Illumination (responsive)</b> | Rev. Todd Jenkins |
|---|-------------------|

We build our barn, we build our wall  
**And so we think we're standing tall,**  
But the gospel truth shall make us small.  
**Remove from us our angst and worry.**  
Prepare our hearts to hear your story,  
**So our lives effectively reflect your glory.**  
**Amen.**

#### **THE WORD**

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Scripture Reading</b> | <b>Luke 12:13-21</b> |
|--------------------------|----------------------|

|               |                          |                   |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Sermon</b> | <i>Death and Rebirth</i> | Rev. Todd Jenkins |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------|

#### **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

|             |                                |         |
|-------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Hymn</b> | <b><i>My Life Flows On</i></b> | GTG 821 |
|-------------|--------------------------------|---------|

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Offering</b> | Rev. Bishop Greene |
|-----------------|--------------------|

**Invitation to the Offering** *(please bring your offering forward to place in the offering plates)*

**Offertory**  
**Doxology**  
**Prayer of Dedication**

**Communion**

**Invitation to the Table**  
**The Great Thanksgiving**

Elder Kathi Cary  
Rev. Todd Jenkins

Let us pray:  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Words of Institution**  
**Communion of the People**

*(communion will be by intinction; please come down the center aisles,  
and return to your seat by the side aisles)*

**Hymns (sung during communion)**

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| <i>You Are My Strength When I Am Weak (x2)</i> | GTG 519 |
| <i>Jesus Thou Joy of Loving Hearts</i>         | GTG 494 |
| <i>In Remembrance of Me</i>                    | GTG 521 |

**Prayer after Communion**

Rev. Todd Jenkins

**Hymn**                      ***My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less***

GTG 353

**Blessing and Charge**

Rev. Todd Jenkins

**Postlude**