



October 1, 2023
Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Prelude

Jesus Is Lord

Innes

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

***Call to Worship**

Dan Ensor

L: Welcome to God's house! We are delighted to have you here!

P: We hunger for God's word of hope.

L: You have come to the right place. Here you will be fed on the life-giving love of God.

P: We thirst for God's healing in our lives.

L: At the table of the Lord, you will be fed and your thirst quenched.

P: Thanks be to God who provides for our needs.

Opening prayer

God of hope and peace, you are with us in all our days and in all our ways. As you walked with the Israelites in the desert, when they had given up hope, you came to them with nourishment and your steadfast love. As Jesus walked through Jerusalem, healing the sick and those afflicted, your love was made abundantly clear through acts of love and mercy. Be with us this day as we gather to hear your word. Inspire and encourage us in all that we do, that we may serve you faithfully, bringing hope and your message of love to your thirsting world. In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN.

HymnThe Lily of the Valley*

TFWS 2062

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***Passing The Peace of Christ**

Dan Ensor

God makes peace within us. Let us claim it.

God makes peace between us. Let us share it. Let us greet another as a sign of God's peace.

The peace of God is here... to stay. Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Pastor Larry

Ministry of Music*Lift Your Light*

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**Prayer for Illumination***All Praying*

Dan Ensor

Bless us, O God, with ears to hear your truth, vision to discern your path, and feet ready to move into action, responding to your call. Inspire us as we hear your Word read and proclaimed. Amen.

Scripture Readings*Colossians 1:15-23*

Dan Ensor

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!**Sermon***"I Believe in Jesus"*

Pastor Larry

The Apostle's Creed

UMH 881

**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 Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at 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 Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Larry

Offertory Invitation

Dan Ensor

We are inspired to be generous by a generous God. We are inspired to give by the greatest of givers. In gratitude to God, let us present our tithes and offerings.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings*Offertory**His Name Is Wonderful*

Mieir

DoxologyPraise God From Whom All Blessings Flow****Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;******Praise God, all creatures here below:******Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!******Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!******Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*****Prayer of Dedication*

Dan Ensor

Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen

HymnO Lord, You're Beautiful*

TFWS 2064

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Invitation to Holy Communion

Pastor Larry

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
 who earnestly repent of their sin
 and seek to live in peace with one another.
 Silent Confession and Pardon

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Some of the responses will be sung. Words are on the monitors. Music is on page 17 in the UMH. Choir will lead.)

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 the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
 always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
 Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth.
 You have made from one every nation and people
 to live on all the face of the earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Musical Setting UMH 17)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**
 Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
 By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
 you gave birth to your Church,
 delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
 and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.
 He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth
 and to make disciples of all nations,
 and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(Musical Setting UMH 18)

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world,
and strengthen it in every nation and among every people
to witness faithfully in your name.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

(Music)

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Communion Hymn*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

UMH 526

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Prayer at the Close of Communion

Pastor Larry

Lord, this special communion reminds us of being members of a global community. We have feasted at your table. As you have nourished us, may we go into your world to bring a feast of peace and hope to others, listening with loving ears and acting with loving hearts, in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN

GOING FORTH TO SERVE***Closing Hymn** *They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love*

TFWS 2223

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***Benediction**

Pastor Larry

We are no longer islands unto ourselves. We are a worldwide community, living in the love and abundant mercy of God. Go in peace to serve God by serving others in need.

Choral BenedictionBenediction Hymn*

**Now may the Lord bless you and keep you
and make his face to shine upon you;
and may God lift his countenance upon you
and give you blessed peace for now and evermore.**

PostludeJesus, Name Above All Names*

Hearn

THE LILY OF THE VALLEY

*I have found a friend in Jesus, he's everything to me,
 he's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul;
 the Lily of the Valley, in him alone I see
 all I need to cleanse and make me fully whole.
 In sorrow he's my comfort, in trouble he's my stay.
 he tells me every care on him to roll.
 He's the Lily of the Valley, the bright and Morning Star,
 he's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.*

*2 He all my grief has taken, and all my sorrows borne;
 in temptation he's my strong and mighty tower;
 I have all for him forsaken, and all my idols torn
 from my heart, and now he keeps me by his power.
 Though all the world forsake me, and Satan tempts me sore,
 Through Jesus I shall safely reach the goal.
 He's the Lily of the Valley, the bright and Morning Star,
 he's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.*

*3 He will never, never leave me, nor yet forsake me here,
 while I live by faith and do his blessed will;
 a wall of fire about me, I've nothing now to fear,
 with his manna he my hungry soul shall fill.
 Then sweeping up to glory, to see his blessed face,
 where rivers of delight shall ever roll.
 He's the Lily of the Valley, the bright and Morning Star,
 he's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.*

O LORD YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL

*O Lord, you're beautiful,
 your face is all I seek;
 And when your eyes are on this child,
 Your grace abounds to me.*

*O Lord, you're wonderful,
 Your touch is all I need;
 And when your hand is on this child,
 Your healing I receive.*

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

*What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!*

*What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.*

2. Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

*We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?*

*Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.*

*3. Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?*

*Precious Savior, still our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.*

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?

Take it to the Lord in prayer!

*In his arms he'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.*

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:*

Refrain:

***And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.***

*We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: **Refrain***

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: **Refrain***

*All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: **Refrain***