A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 18, 2024
10:00 am

*All who are able may stand.
Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING . . .

The Prelude
The Penitent Heart

Colin Curtis

The Welcome and Announcements

This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The Introit
O Jesus, I Have Promised (Hymn 724)

The Call To Worship

Followers of Jesus, have you come today to receive a good word?

Yes! We come to receive a good word and blessing to carry with us into the world.

God blessed Solomon in a dream. Are you ready to dream?

Yes! We come to dream of God’s blessings we will carry with us into the world.

God blesses us when we worship together. Are you ready to worship?

Yes! We come to worship God together as we share in the good word of God’s grace.

Then, come! Let us worship with rejoicing!

Praise be to God who gives us wisdom and draws us together as the family of God! Amen.

The Prayer of Adoration

Eternal God, we give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. You are gracious and merciful, and your righteousness endures forever. You bless us in our comings and our goings, ever faithful to your covenant. Fill us now with your Spirit that we may make the most of time, living not as unwise people but as wise, giving thanks to God our loving Parent at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*The Hymn 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.

Death of death, and hell’s destruction, land me safe on Canaan’s side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

*The Prayer of Confession

All-knowing God, we are your children, but we have turned away from your wisdom and walked in our own ways. We have lived carelessly and squandered time. We have remained silent in the face of evil. We have not refrained from deceit. We have not followed in the way of peace, and we have not honored all that is true and good. We have been foolish and immature people who resist the holy wisdom you graciously offer. Forgive us, O God, and lead us to sincere repentance . . . silent prayer . . . Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.
We are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. Thanks be to God!

*The Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you!

(Include a greeting, such as “And also with you!”)

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD . . .

The Prayer for Illumination

Great God of steadfast love, we study your works and delight in your ways. Illumine our understanding by your Holy Spirit, that we may reverence your name, grow in your wisdom, and discern between good and evil. Amen.

The Psalter Lesson: Psalm 111

The Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 5:15-20

Anthem

In the Sweet By-and-By

There’s a land that is fairer than day, And by faith we can see it afar; For the Father waits over the way to prepare us a dwelling place there. In the sweet by and by, we shall meet on that beautiful shore; [Repeat] We shall sing on that beautiful shore the melodious songs of the blest And our spirits shall sorrow no more, not a sigh for the blessing of rest. In the sweet by and by, we shall meet on that beautiful shore; [Repeat] To our bountiful Father above, we will offer our tribute of praise; For the glorious gift of His love and the blessings that hallow our days. In the sweet by and by, we shall meet on that beautiful shore; [Repeat]


Moment with Children

*The Hymn 174

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom, she who danced when earth was new. Follow closely what she teaches, for her words are right and true. Wisdom clears the path to justice, showing us what love must do. Listen to the voice of Wisdom, crying in the marketplace. Hear the Word made flesh among us, full of glory, truth, and grace. When the word takes root and ripens, peace and righteousness embrace. Sister Wisdom, come, assist us; nurture all who seek rebirth. Spirit guide and close companion, bring to light our sacred worth. Free us to become your people, holy friends of God and earth.

The Old Testament Lesson: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

The Sermon

Don’t Be Afraid to Ask...

Jen Rowe
RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD...

*Affirmation of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

The Prayers of the People

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.

Tithes and Offerings Presented

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

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.

GOING FORTH AND SERVING IN GOD'S NAME

*The Hymn 755

Alleluia! Laud and Blessing

Alleluia! Laud and blessing to our God, whose Word is sure; by whose grace we find redemption, in whose love we live secure. Righteousness and rich compassion shall attend us all our days; may God's promise to be faithful echo through our songs of praise!

Alleluia! God sustains us; matchless are the gifts we share: light in darkness, hope in conflict, answers to our deepest prayer. Ours to give as we are given: arms to lift when others fall; images of God's great goodness, faithful servants to God's call.

Alleluia! Holy Parent, all your children now reclaim; may our lives reflect your justice, heirs to your most sacred name. Fill our hearts with understanding, brace our weakness by your might; awesome honor, born in wisdom; your great glory, our delight!

*The Charge and Benediction

Beloved of God, go from this place blessed with: Peace! Yes! Joy! Yes! Wisdom! Yes!

And grace to share with all!

Yes! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

The Call to Victory

Please be seated in personal reflection until the Postlude ends.

The flowers on the pulpit are given by Mary Lou Cramer in honor of educators everywhere.
Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah – Text: William Williams, 1762; stanza 1, trans Peter Williams 1771; stanzas 2-3, trans. William Williams, 1762; Music: John Hughes 1907; Public Domain

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