A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
The Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 16, 2023
*All who are able may stand.
Bold type spoken by the congregation

10:00 am

GATHERING . . .
The Prelude

In Heavenly Love Abiding
arr. David Hegarty

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In Heavenly Love Abiding
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The Welcome and Announcements
This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The Introit

I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes

The Call To Worship

(from Psalm 119, The Message translation)

By your words we can see where we are going; they throw a beam of light on our dark path.

Everything’s falling apart on us, God; put us together again with your Word.

Adorn us with your finest sayings, God; teach us your holy rules.

We inherited your book on living; it’s ours forever – what a gift!

The Prayer of Adoration

Through flawed families and surprising sowers, O God, you broaden the horizons and hopes of your people, that we may continue to discover the meaning of your covenant, even in the midst of trial and exile. Through ancient narratives and thought-provoking parables, your Living Word reveals the continuing story of love you lavish upon us. Source of all creation, we praise your holy name!

*The Hymn 643

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done,
in whom this world rejoices; who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven, to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given;
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore, the God who was and is, and shall be evermore.

*The Prayer of Confession

Patient and persistent God, we come, polished and presentable, to this comfortable room as if we know what to expect, as if this were a safe and predictable place, as if we could simply observe.
Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations. In the mystery of your love, overshadow us. Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts until we bloom and spill with your passion to serve in a world that is wasting . . . silent prayer . . . Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The Spirit of God dwells in you. If you hear nothing else today, hear these words: there is no condemnation.

In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

*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!
(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshiping at home, please share Christ's peace with someone outside Your home this week.)

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD . . .

The Prayer for Illumination
Author of Life, Living Word, Holy Breath, we have stumbled through this week and groped our way back to this place. Illumine our steps before us and write your words on our hearts, for we carry the name of Jesus and would walk in the light of his love. Amen.

The Psalter Lesson: Psalm 119:105-112

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:1-11

The Anthem I See, I Hear, I Know Craig Courtney
Now I see, O Lord, I see the light inside eternity. The tree, the bloom, the feast inside the upper room.
A whip-poor-will, a mourning dove, the song of wind, the hymn of love have called my soul to see the light inside eternity.
Now I see, O Lord. Now I hear, O Lord, I hear one tune to drive away all fear. I hear the sound of life in sea and air and ground;
I hear a river running through the sky, while choirs of angels sing on high. Be glad, my soul, and hear one tune to drive away all fear.
Now I hear, O Lord. Now I know, O Lord, I know why every seed must die to grow. I know the tree of life inside eternity.
I know the throne, I know the Lamb, the Christ, the Lord, the One, the great I AM. Now I know, O Lord. Now I see, now I hear, I know.

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

A Moment with the Children

*The Hymn 658 God Is so Good
God is so good; God is so good; God is so good; God is so good; God’s so good to me.
God cares for me; God cares for me; God cares for me; God’s so good to me.
God loves me so; God loves me so; God loves me so; God’s so good to me.
God is so good; God is so good; God is so good; God is so good; God’s so good to me.

The Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 25:19-34

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Sermon Go: Expecting the Unexpected Jen Rowe

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD . . .

*Affirmation of Faith

What do you believe when you confess your faith in “God the Father Almighty”?
That God is a God of love, and that God’s love is powerful beyond measure.
What do you affirm when you confess your faith in Jesus Christ as “our Lord”?
That having been raised from the dead he reigns with compassion and justice over all things in heaven and on earth, especially over those who confess him by faith; and that by loving and serving him above all else, we give glory and honor to God.
What do you believe when you confess your faith in the Holy Spirit?
That apart from the Holy Spirit, our Lord can neither be loved, nor known, nor served. The Holy
Spirit is the personal bond by which Jesus Christ unites us to himself, the teacher who opens our hearts to Christ, and the comforter who leads us to repentance, empowering us to live in Christ’s service.

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 SERVE IN GOD’S NAME

*The Hymn 754

Help Us Accept Each Other

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some, to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance until we know by heart the table of forgiveness, and laughter’s healing art.

Lord, for today’s encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on: renew us with your Spirit;

Lord, free us; make us one!

*The Charge and Benediction

Postlude Sonata G. F. Handel

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Preacher: Jen Rowe
Liturgist: Les Johnson
Choirmasters: Mary Ann and Larry Casey
Organist: Amy Shirk

Now Thank We All Our God – Text: Martin Rinkart, c. 1636; trans. Catherine Winkworth 1858, alt; Public Domain
I See, I Hear, I Know; Craig Courtney, ©2006 Bechemhorst Press
God is So Good – Text: Anonymous
Help Us Accept Each Other–Text: Fred Kaan, 1974; ©1975, Hope Publishing Company
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