A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

July 23, 2023
*All who are able may stand.
Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING . . .

The Prelude
The Sheltering Rock
arr. Mercy Bartlett

The Welcome and Announcements

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

The Introit
You Walk Along Our Shoreline (#170)

The Call To Worship

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set you glory above the heavens.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.

The Prayer of Adoration

All-knowing God, we gather together with praise and thanksgiving for who You are, and for all that You have done for us. You know us better than we know ourselves—all our thoughts and actions—and yet You love us. No matter where we go or what we do, Your love encircles us—ahead and behind—gently leading and guiding and blessing. We praise You for Your love and Your faithful presence in our lives. May Your Spirit move in our hearts and minds as we worship together—examine our attitudes and actions, lay bare the things we need to confess, challenge us with Your Word, and guide us on to paths that lead to life. For we are Your people, called by Your name. Amen.

*The Hymn 317

In Christ There Is No East or West

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north;
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth

*The Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, your creatures cry, creation groans, but we turn away; we surround ourselves with noise. We are quick to excuse ourselves from responsibility; we are young; we are old; we are tired; we are busy. It is hard to imagine that we might make a difference. Life-giving God, wash us clean.

Restore our imaginations and our hearts. Let your courage and compassion flow through our veins until we love with abandon and our hands reach out in blessing, for the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God... silent prayer . . . Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Sisters and brothers, hear the word of the Lord. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God says unequivocally, irrevocably; you are my own: you are forgiven; and I need you to be about my business in the world.

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!
(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

The Psalter Lesson: Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:12-25

The Anthem

Sunshine in My Soul

John Coates, Jr., arr.

There is sunshine in my soul today, It's a glow so warm and bright,
Brighter far than shines in earthly skies, A pure and heavenly kind of light.
Oh, there is sunshine, beautiful sunshine; And the peaceful happy moments roll;
As I look with love into my brother's face, There is sunshine in my soul.
There is music in my soul today, It's a song that I must sing,
For a song of peace is in my heart, Oh, let the joyful tidings ring.
Oh, there is sunshine, beautiful sunshine; And the peaceful happy moments roll;
As I look with love into my brother's face, There is sunshine in my soul.
There is springtime in my soul today, And my skies are blue above,
For I know there dawns a better day, A wondrous age of peace and love.
Oh, there is sunshine, beautiful sunshine; And the peaceful happy moments roll;
As I look with love into my brother's face, There is sunshine in my soul.

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

A Moment with the Children

*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 Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 28:10-19a

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Go: With God

Shannon Hendricks

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD . . .

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles’ Creed

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

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 543

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight, flashing of lightning,
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of planet:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

The Charge and Benediction

The flowers on the pulpit are given by Sue Williams in memory of her parents, Paul and Isobel Lowman.

Rev. Shannon Hendricks is the Executive Director of the National Campus Ministry Association part time and a full time mom to three wonderful and energetic children, Owen (3), Theo (3), and Chloe (1). Her husband, Will, and she were married here at Fredericksburg Presbyterian in 2018. After a sojourn to serve as interim Associate at Fairfield Presbyterian, they are glad to be back worshipping with all of you.