

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025



Gathering Music
"Praise Our Maker" (VU # 316)

Welcome



Light the Christ Candle

We may come here with hope, with joy, with pain, or with the heaviness of life. We come together to be renewed and to comfort each other. We come to find hope and to receive courage and strength for our daily journey. Let us gather around this candle, a light for the world in the life of Christ. Amen.



Announcements



Announcements / Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday, Happy Birthday

We Love You

Happy Birthday and may all your dreams come true

When you blow out your candles,

One remains aglow

Its the love-light in your eyes

Where e'er you go

(Repeat)





Prelude

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (VU # 220)

Call to Worship

The Church is made up of all kinds of people: short and tall, young and old and in between, skin of every tone on Earth, and colourful languages to match. Together we celebrate !

All are welcomed by the Spirit of Christ: when we doubt and when we hold firm to beliefs, when we feel like being outgoing extroverts or quiet contemplatives, the rainbow expressions of faith are all gathered in. Together we celebrate !

Each one of us has an important part to play: a story to tell, a voice for singing, an insight to share, a talent to offer. Together, we worship God !

Hymn VU # 602 *“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”*

- 1 Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.
- 2 Before our Maker's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.



- 3 We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathising tear.
- 4 This glorious hope revives
our courage on the way;
that we shall live in perfect love
in God's eternal day.



Prayer of Confession

Like young birds taking flight from their maternal nest, we desire our freedom. Yet we often restrict ourselves and others, diminishing life in so many ways.

In the Church, we fence in our faith experiences with rigid rules, doctrines, and ideas of what is acceptable. Free our hearts as we pray. As individuals we bind ourselves to “shoulds, woulds, and oughts” imposed on us by external voices often from ages past.

We also enslave one another by using others for our gain and silencing voices of dissent. God, may you free our hearts as we pray.

Words of Assurance

With liberated hearts we affirm once again: our freedom is your desire. You forgive liberally and love generously in order to free our hearts. May we do likewise for ourselves and others.

Thanks be to God !

Time with the Young People

by Yun-Hee

Children Song

“B-I-B-L-E”

(The children may now proceed with their guardians to have sharing time.)



The Scriptures

read by Wanda

First Reading

Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker - also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier - and to the Church that meets in your home: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul - an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus - that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. I am sending him - who is my very heart - back to you. I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the Gospel. But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favour you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary.

Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever - no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord. So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back - not to mention that you owe me your very self. I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Second Reading

Luke 14:25-33

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them [Jesus] said: "If anyone comes to me and does not love less father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters - yes, even their own life - such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand ? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

We give thanks for inspiration.



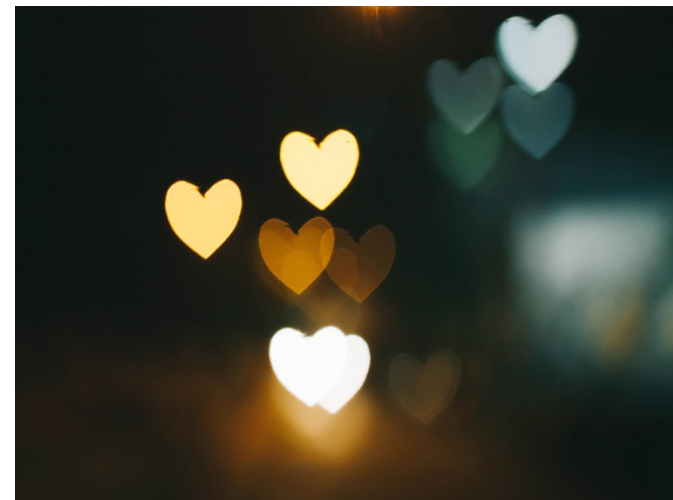
Message

by Rev. Yun-Hee

Hymn VU # 427

“To Show by Touch and Word”

- 1 To show by touch and word devotion to the Earth,
to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find
the good you had of old in mind.



2

Renew our minds to choose the things that
matter most,
our hearts to long for truth 'til pride of self is
lost.

For every challenge that we face
we need your guidance and your Grace.

3

Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and
norm,
and let our lives portray your word in human
form.

Now come with us that we may have
your wits about us where we live.

Prayers of the People

The most amazing God, the sun rises, the darkness fades, and a new day unfolds with possibilities before us. When we allow Grace to have its way, we see beauty shining everywhere and our hearts grow warm with gratitude.

By your Spirit, we become people of Grace and Peace who enlarge the presence of beauty in the world. Though the laws of our land abolished slavery and all have the right to know the goodness of this world, some still await liberation.

By your Spirit, may we be people of Grace and Peace.

The God of Peace, we pray for all people who are suffering the effects of war – military and civilian, we also pray for the leaders of our nation that they might know peace within themselves, and knowing such peace will make decisions leading to a world that lives out your vision of peace and justice. By your Spirit, may we be people of Grace and Peace.



We pray for those who are sad, lonely, or sick. May you give your strength and healing to all. And bless all those who try and help them.

Some are silenced or excluded from the tables of influence and leadership because of the colour of their skin, their gender, their socio-economic reality, or their differing perspectives. But you welcomed all people erasing the labels of distinction.

By your Spirit, may we be people of God.
Peace.



Even as we delight in the beauty of life may we see clearly the situations that are in need of our compassionate involvement so that in and with and through your Spirit we may be people of Grace and Peace in this world. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer VU # 960

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowéd 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

We Offer Our Gifts

Musical Offering VU # 540

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.



Offering Prayer

All-embracing God, we praise you for the blessings of love and care that we have received and for the opportunity to share them with others. We offer these gifts, and those given through PAR, in your loving name. May you bless them in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn MV # 161 *"I Have Called You By Your Name"*

1.

I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called and chosen; you are mine.

2.

I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul
can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.

3.

I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in Creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in
spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

4.

I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded
children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

Blessing



Occasions to offer Grace and Peace are all around us.

Every day presents opportunities to express forgiveness, acceptance, and hospitality if we have eyes to see and ears to hear. For the Spirit of reconciliation is within us stirring, urging, moving us toward one another and deeper into the soul of God. **Amen.**



Go now in peace

***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of
every day.***

***Go now in faith, steadfast strong
and true.***

***Know God will guide you in all you
do.***

***Go now in love and show you
believe.***

***Reach out to others so all the world
can see.***

***God will be there within, around,
above.***

***Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.***

*We thank God for being with us !
Thank you for worshipping together today
& for participating in the Service !*

*We come together to be renewed and to
comfort each other in our Erin Church !*



(adapted from "Seasons of the Spirit – Seasons Fusion" and Images from the public domain)