

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, July 30, 2023

Welcoming and Announcements

Centring Music

Lighting of the Christ Candle

In the light of the Christ Candle, we come.
With compassion we gather,
with dignity we greet each other.
In equanimity we move together with positive intentions.
Let the light shine among us and bless our togetherness.

Opening Hymn: Praise God for This Holy Ground

More Voices 42

(Please stand as you are able.)

Words and music: John L. Bell, 2022

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- 1 Praise God for this holy ground,
place and people, sight and sound.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God's goodness is eternal.
- 2 Praise God in whose word we find
food for body, soul and mind.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God's goodness is eternal.
- 3 Praise God who through Christ makes know
all are loved and called God's own.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God's goodness is eternal.

4 Praise God's Spirit who befriends,
raises, humbles, breaks and mends.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God's goodness is eternal.

5 Though praise ends, praise is begun
where God's will is gladly done.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God's goodness is eternal.

Opening Prayer

Loving Creator, thank you for meeting us on Holy ground.
We open our hearts to your love and kindness.
We open our hearts to one another as kin.
Thank you for being on the journey of life with us.
Keep us traveling with you. Amen.

A Time to Wonder

Hymn: Dance with the Spirit (More Voices 156, vs. 2)

(Please stand as you are able.)

Words and Music: Jim Strathdee

Words and Music © 1995 by Jim and Jean Strathdee (Desert Flower Music)

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Dance with the Spirit
early in the morning,
Move with the Spirit
throughout the long day,
Work and hope
for new life abornin'
Listen to the spirit
to show you the way.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 49:13

Matthew 15:32-39

Reflection: 'Alphabet of the Heart'

Hymn of the Day: Spirit, Open My Heart (More Voices 79)

(Please stand as you are able.)

Words: Ruth Duck, 1994

Music: traditional melody, Ireland; arr. Arthur G. Clyde, 1997

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- Refrain Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.
- 1 God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. *Refrain*
- 2 Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
each thought, word, and deed
my living bring you glory. *Refrain*
- 3 May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ
may we welcome one another. *Refrain*

Invitation to Offering

God has given us hearts that are generous,
and spirits that are large and free.
Let us offer ourselves and all our living,
faithfully to others and to the Ministry of Love.

Choral Response: Bless Our Families

Voices United 556, vs. 4

(Please stand as you are able.)

Words: Walter Farquharson 1974; Music: Ron Klusmeier 1974

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Let us reach beyond the boundaries
of our daily thought and care
till the family you have chosen
spills its love out everywhere.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles
love's expressed in many ways.

Offering Prayer

Loving God, take what we offer and multiply it with your Love.
Our gifts of time and money, kindness and joy,
are given freely, that others may be free. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Mother, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kin-dom come,
thy will be done on earth as 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 kin-dom and the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Parting Hymn: One More Step Along the World I Go

Voices United 639

(Please stand as you are able.)

Words and music: Sydney Carter 1971

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- 1 One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new,
keep me travelling a long with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.
- 2 Round the corner of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see
you'll be looking at along with me:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.
- 3 As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me travelling the way I should;
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.
- 4 Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough,
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.
- 5 You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me,
ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Leadership – Rev. Hilde J. Seal
Music Leadership – James Yi
Welcoming – Stephen Godfrey
A Time to Wonder – Rev. Hilde J. Seal
Readers – Margaret Bates, Dennis Burke, & Blyth Hughes
Chimes – Margaret Chambers
Spirit Kids Program – Jayda Perry
Technical Support – Sam Boehner & Jiemei Li
Fellowship Time – Caring Ministry