



October 19, 2025 – 10am

Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.

PRELUDE "Here I Am, Lord" arr. Carter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Please rise in body or spirit and join me in the Call to Worship.

Leader: To tussle with God is an ancient tradition

People: Saints and prophets wrestle in the night

Leader: Tossing and turning our questions

People: Arguing on behalf of our neighbors

Leader: We raise our voices in holy exasperation

People: Our hearts race with the fury of love

Leader: God welcomes the conflict and embraces our audacity

People: Here we are, to grapple with faith

Leader: In honest pursuit of God, let us worship

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

CALL TO CONFESSION – Liturgist

Please be seated.

In spite of our best efforts to live faithfully,
we fall short of what God intends for us.
Because God has already promised to be merciful,
we dare to tell the truth about our lives.
In humility and trust, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION –Liturgist

Cross

God of grace,
For our failure to love others as you have loved us,
forgive us.

For wasting your gifts and hoarding our goods,
forgive us.

For losing heart and abandoning hope,
forgive us.

For all the ways we turn from you,
forgive us

We offer our prayers in the name of the One who saves us,
Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Silence for personal confession)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

[Water is poured into the font.]

Grace flows like a river;
mercy like a never-ending stream.

Believe the good news:
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

HYMN 447

"We Are Forgiven"

Ribbon

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord, be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN 188

"Jesus Loves Me"

TALK WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Liturgist

Holy God,
the words of Scripture are God-breathed words—
inspired by you
and given life
through the power of your Holy Spirit.
By your Spirit breathe your word into us,
so that we become proficient in the language of faith
and equipped to proclaim the message we receive,
for the sake of Jesus Christ,
the Living Word. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 32:22-31 (NRSVUE) – Liturgist

Notepad

22 The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. 24 Jacob was left alone, and a man

wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." 27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 28 Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." 29 Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. 30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." 31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL READING Luke 18:1-8 (NRSVUE)

1 Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. 2 He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. 3 In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' 4 For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'"

6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? 8 I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY †

God of the dispossessed,
you teach us to hunger for justice
even when the weak are shut out
and the powerful turn over in their beds:
in the heat of our anger
and the bitterness of our complaints,

give us the courage to protest,
the persistence to pray
and the hearts to love;
through Jesus Christ, the true judge. Amen.

SERMON

Jubilee Stories: God Wrestlers

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Cross

Our Father who art in heaven... (Hymnal p. 35. We say "debts & debtors.")

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING – Liturgist

Resolute in heart, we refuse to give up on a world that is imperfect but alive with freedom and flourishing.

Let us practice this world together, sharing what we have, taking care of each other, bringing all our questions and concerns as honest offerings to God.

You can give in person or online using the QR code printed in the bulletin or on the screen.

OFFERTORY

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" arr. by Jack Schrader

*DOXOLOGY 606

Ribbon

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication – Liturgist

Cross

Righteous Redeemer, we remember all those who have bravely come toe-to-toe with you regarding injustice. When old ways need shifting, it often requires courageous ones to come and stir the still waters.

We give thanks for the skeptics and the questioners. The ones who help us pause.
Help us notice. Help us disrupt ordinary patterns that harm. For the blessings that
follow the scrappy audacity of the fed-up, we bring our gifts with thanks. Amen.

***HYMN 760**

"Bring Many Names"

Ribbon

This text affirms that the images we use for God can be inspired by either gender because both males and females reflect the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). Similarly, since God is with us at all stages of life, all ages hold the potential to reveal something about God.

1 Bring many names,
beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory,
living, loving God.
Hail and Hosanna!
Bring many names!

2 Strong mother God,
working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation
genius at play:
Hail and Hosanna,
strong mother God!

3 Warm father God,
hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving
till we're reconciled:
Hail and Hosanna,
warm father God!

4 Old, aching God,

gray with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises,
wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna,
old, aching God!

5 Young, growing God,
eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice,
giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna,
young, growing God!

6 Great, living God,
never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing,
everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna,
great, living God!

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Reprise of "Bring Many Names"

† From *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare. New York: Church Publishing, 2009.

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