

Welcome to Worship! | July 30, 2023 | Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

It is good you are here! Please silence all electronic devices.

GATHERING

Prelude How Fair and Pleasant Art Thou

Marcel Dupré

Welcome

*Call to Worship

We gather together in the presence of God

to offer our praise and our prayers.

We come before God with confidence,

Because through Jesus Christ, God's own Spirit dwells within us,

Praying in us and for us,

Loving us beyond measure,

And calling us according to God's purpose.

We come with joy to offer our worship to God who knows and loves us all.

*Gathering Prayer

*Hymn 41 O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what we are scared to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and all that we have done or left undone. Give us peace when fear threatens to undo us. Have mercy upon us, and may your Spirit dwell within us and reassure us that through Jesus, nothing can ever separate us from your love. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Sung Response 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Commissioning of Youth Mission Participants

WORD

First lesson Psalm 128

Second lesson Romans 8:26-39

Sermon Life in the Spirit: Love

Rev. Katherine B. Harrington

*Hymn 849 Everyone Who Longs for the Boundless Love of God

Verse1—Leader: Verse 2—All: Refrain—Leader: Refrain—All

^{*}Please stand as you are able.

*Affirmation of Faith A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

THANKSGIVING

Offering and Passing of Friendship Pads

Offertory A Simple Song

Leonard Bernstein

Sing God a simple song: Lauda, Laude...Make it up as you go along: Lauda, Laude... Sing like you like to sing. God loves all simple things, for God is the simplest of all. I will sing the Lord a new song to praise him, to bless him, to bless the Lord. I will sing his praises while I live all of my days.

Blessed is the man who loves the Lord, blessed is the man who praises him. Lauda, Lauda, Laude...and walks in his ways.

I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help. I will lift up my voice to the Lord singing Lauda, Laude.

For the Lord is my shade, is the shade upon my right hand, and the sun shall not smite me by day nor the moon by night. Blessed is the man who loves the Lord, Lauda, Lauda, Laude, and walks in his ways. Lauda, Lauda, Lauda, Lauda, Lauda di da di day... All of my days.

*Doxology 606

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

*Hymn 547 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

*Charge and Benediction

*Dismissal We stand while the bell is rung three times, remembering that God, Creator, Redeemer and Renewer of Life, goes with us. Go in peace!

Postlude Presto from Organ Concerto No. 5

G.F. Handel arr. Geoffrey Edwards

Worship Leaders

Senior Pastor, Rev. Katherine B. Harrington College Intern, John Henderson Director of Music, Cindy Litzinger Choir Director, Angela Burns Soloist, Steve Hassmer Organist/Pianist, Sara Bryant Production Coordinator, Jim Fox Lay Reader, Evelyn Estep