



Sunday, August 23, 2020

Welcome!

We are thankful that you are worshiping with us today! To learn more about the life of our congregation, join our email list [here](#).

Here are some helpful resources for our younger worshippers:

[Children's Bulletin](#) | [Worship Worksheet for Kids](#)

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:30 A.M., The Church Gathered on Facebook Live

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 121*

I Lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will not slumber nor sleep.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in

From this time on and forevermore.

*OPENING PRAYER

God our creator and sustainer, we gather this morning from many parts of our city and across our country to thank you that no matter what we have to face in our lives, that you are with us.

We gather to be reconnected and to be reminded that when we ask for help, that you are the source of our strength and our hope. We worship you; we give you thanks. Amen

*HYMN 12

Immortal, Invisible God only Wise

ST. DENIO

1. *Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days.
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

2. *Unresting, unbounding, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.*
3. *To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.*
4. *Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
That only the splendor of light hideth thee.*

LITURGY OF BLESSING FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

The pressure to conform to this world, to capitulate to earthly powers rather than fear the Lord, tempts us and sometimes we give in to that temptation. We confess Jesus is Lord with our lips, but our actions reveal that our loyalty lies elsewhere. Nonetheless, God is merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. With the confidence of the children of God, we join together and confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we grow hardhearted, seeing each other as competing for scarce resources rather than one human family created and cared for by you, our God of infinite abundance. We conform easily to the ways of the world, striving endlessly for those things that do not satisfy, practicing greed and participating in systems that hurt people and creation. You call us to another way, the way of Christ Jesus our Lord, a way of compassion and justice, love and service. You offer us a life of joy and grace, mercy and redemption, readily available to us when we repent and seek you and your righteousness first. We turn to you now, forgive and free us, we pray. Amen.

Silence is kept for personal prayer

POURING OF THE WATERS & DECLARATION OF PROMISE AND FORGIVENESS

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

In these waters, we are reminded that God's love for us will always win over evil. In Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

*THE GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 582)

GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

*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!*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 399)

God Welcomes All

THEMBA AMEN

God welcomes all, strangers and friends. God's love is strong and it never ends. (Repeat)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

When the demands of the world and the stress of these days weighs heavy upon us, we turn to you, Lord God. Help us to hear again your call and grant us the faith to follow so that we will know the abundant life you want for your people. Amen.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:1-8

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 124

Here ends the reading of the Psalm. **Amen**

SERMON

Dennis Jewett

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing

the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. We believe in the Holy Spirit who continues to work in our lives and in our world.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Freely we have received, freely let us give. With joyous and generous hearts, let us offer to God a portion of what God has entrusted to us.

[Give online](#)

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

I Lift Up Mine Eyes

Carlyle Sharp

*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, creator and restorer of all life, we thank you for this table and what it represents. As a people called to your work to glorify you in every walk of life, let this table draw us closer together so that we might draw closer to you. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 816

If Thou but Trust in God

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

1. *If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hopeful heart through all they ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee, to bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on the rock that nought can move.*
2. *Only be still, and wait God's leisure in cheerful hope, with heart content
To take whate'er thy Father's pleasure and all discerning love hath sent.
No doubt, our inmost wants are known to Him who chose us for his own.*
3. *Sing, pray, and keep God's way unswerving, in cheerful hope with heart content.
Trust the rich promises of grace---so shall they be fulfilled in thee.
God never yet forsook in need, the soul secured by trust indeed.*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

How Can I Keep From Singing

Andy Beck

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

PREACHING

Dennis Jewett, Minister of Music

PRESIDING AT THE TABLE

Rev. David Madewell

ASSISTING

*Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission
Stephanie Dubé, Director of Youth Ministries & Weekday School*

MUSICIANS

*Patrick Ritsch, Organist
Shelby Wooldridge, Kerry Showers, Nadia Wilkes*