



# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 11:00 AM

As a courtesy to  
others, please  
silence your phone.

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

### LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

### PRELUDE

*How Great Thou Art*

arr. Steven Phillips

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Judy Knudtson

Praise God, who meets us in this holy place.

**God's promises are sure.**

Praise God, who fills us with all good things.

**God's promises are sure.**

Praise God, who knows our needs and lovingly meets them.

**God's promises are sure.**

Let us worship God.

### \*HYMN 49

*The God of Abraham Praise*

LEONI

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|--|--|
| <p>1 The God of Abraham praise,<br/>who reigns enthroned above,<br/>the Ancient of Eternal Days,<br/>the God of love!<br/>The Lord, the great I am,<br/>by earth and heaven confessed,<br/>we bow before your holy name,<br/>forever blest.</p>                    | <p>3 Your goodly land we seek,<br/>with peace and plenty blest,<br/>a land of sacred liberty<br/>and Sabbath rest.<br/>There milk and honey flow,<br/>and oil and wine abound,<br/>and trees of life forever grow<br/>with mercy crowned.</p>                  |
| <p>2 Your spirit still flows free,<br/>high surging where it will.<br/>In prophet's word you spoke of old<br/>and you speak still.<br/>Established is your law,<br/>and changeless it shall stand,<br/>deep writ upon the human heart<br/>by your strong hand.</p> | <p>4 You have eternal life<br/>implanted in the soul;<br/>your love shall be our strength and stay,<br/>while ages roll.<br/>We praise you, living God!<br/>We praise your holy name:<br/>the first, the last, beyond all thought,<br/>and still the same!</p> |

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God,  
we come before you  
acknowledging your faithfulness  
and the depth of your promises.  
Yet, like Abraham, we confess our  
moments of uncertainty and doubt.  
Forgive us, Lord, for the times  
we have doubted your goodness  
and questioned your plans for us.  
Strengthen us to trust in your  
unfailing love and provision. (a moment for silent reflection)**

\* Please rise in body  
or in spirit.

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**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*SONG OF JOY 582** (v. 1) *Glory To God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* GLORY TO GOD

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.

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**MOMENT FOR DISCIPLESHIP - CUBA**

Carol Papa

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**ANTHEM**

*Psalm 139*  
(The Chancel Choir)

Michael Burkhardt

O Lord, my God, you have searched me  
and know my heart and everything about me.  
You know when I sit or stand.  
You know where I am and what I'll say before I say it.  
You place your hand of blessing on my head.

This is too glorious, too wonderful to believe.  
I can never be lost from your Spirit or escape my God.  
If I go up to the heavens,  
if I go down to the place of the dead,  
you are there!

If I take the wings of the morning,  
and dwell in the uttermost depths of the sea,  
e'en there your hand will hold me,  
your strength will guide and support me.

If I try to hide in the darkness  
the night becomes light all around me;  
for even darkness cannot hide from God.

To you the night shines bright as day.  
When I waken in the morning  
I know you still are with me.  
How precious, precious you are Lord!  
You continue to place your hand of blessing on my head.

With all my heart I praise and thank you!

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*The Reckoning*

Rev. Boggess

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

### **OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY**

*Prayer of the Children*  
(Carrie Mills, Matt Jarvis, Steven Phillips)

Kurt Bestor

Can you hear the prayer of the children  
on bended knee, in the shadow of an unknown room?  
Empty eyes, with no more tears to cry,  
turning heavenward, toward the light,  
crying, "Jesus, help me  
to see the morning light of one more day;  
but if I should die before I wake,  
I pray my soul to take."

Can you feel the heart of the children  
aching for home, for something of their very own?  
Reaching hands, with nothing to hold on to,  
but hope for a better day, a better day,  
crying, "Jesus, help me  
to feel the love again in my own land;  
but if unknown roads lead away from home,  
give me loving arms, away from harm."

Can you hear the voice of the children  
softly pleading for silence in a shattered world?  
Angry guns preach a gospel full of hate,  
blood of the innocent on their hands.  
Crying, "Jesus, help me  
to feel the sun again upon my face;  
for when darkness clears I know you're near,  
bringing peace again."

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus  
God kept his promises.**

**All that we can ever hope for  
was present in Christ.**

**But the work of God in Christ is not over.**

**God calls us to hope for more than  
we have yet seen.**

**The hope God gives us is ultimate confidence  
that supports us when lesser hopes fail us.**

**This hope gives us courage  
for the present struggle.**

**BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

**\*HYMN 645**

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

MIT FREUDEN ZART

Sing praise to God who reigns above,  
the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love,  
the God of our salvation.  
With healing balm my soul is filled,  
and every faithless murmur stilled:  
to God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power has made  
God's gracious mercy keepeth;  
by morning glow or evening shade  
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.  
Within the kingdom of God's might,  
lo! all is just and all is right:  
to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,  
but, through all grief distressing,  
an ever-present help and stay,  
our peace and joy and blessing,  
as with a mother's tender hand  
God gently leads the chosen band:  
to God all praise and glory!

Thus all my toilsome way along  
I sing aloud thy praises,  
that all may hear the grateful song  
my voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart;  
both soul and body, take your part:  
to God all praise and glory!

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. Boggess

**POSTLUDE**

Improvisation on "Canticle of the Turning"

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.



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