

Order of Worship

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

July 28, 2024

Gathering and Welcome *How Great Thou Art*

Prelude *To God Be the Glory* – arr. Mark Hayes

Jessye Whitis, pianist

***Call to worship** (from Psalm 145:10-18)

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your faithful shall bless you.

The Lord upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.

The Lord is just and kind,
The Lord is near to all who call on God.

***Hymn of Praise # 275** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Prayer for Unity of Spirit in the Church

Who, then, is allowed to ascend the mountain of Yahweh? And who has the privilege of entering into God's Holy Place? Those who are clean—those whose works and ways are pure, whose hearts are true and sealed by the truth, those who never deceive, whose words are sure. They will receive Yahweh's blessing and righteousness given by the Savior-God. They will stand before God, for they seek the pleasure of God's face (Psalm 24: 3-5 TPT).

Pray with me:

Father, we are grateful that you are faithful to check our hearts. We do not want to give place to the enemy, allowing discord or offense to occur. Lord, we ask that You shine Your spotlight of conviction to any unswept corners of our hearts. We desire to have clean hands and pure hearts, being tools of unity and truth. We want to walk in the light — so shine Your light upon us, exposing our hearts and motives. Help us to always be willing to admit when we are wrong, allowing You to bring hope, harmony, and restoration to Your body. Show us our hearts Lord, and help us to always be instruments of Your healing and love. Amen.

Vocal Anthem *Like a River in my Soul* – arr. Tim Osiek

La Verne Morris, alto

Prayer for illumination

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that the Scripture we are about to hear will become the Word of God for us in this day and time of our lives. Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Scripture readings Ephesians 6: 10 - 18

Get Dressed—The Whole Armor of God

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

***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.**

***Hymn of Choice #** (Congregation)

Call for the offering

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. God has given us life and resources for it, so let us give in return.

Offertory *Take My Life and Let It Be* – by Alejandro Consolacion

La Verne Morris, alto

***Doxology # 606 Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow**

Prayer of dedication

O God, may these gifts be used as a witness to your love, peace and justice at work in the world, renewing the face of the earth.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

God, Christ gives us direction for renewing our discipleship. Your Word enables us to enter more deeply into the Christian life. You call us not just to refrain from violence but to restrain hurtful and unkind words. Indeed, you call us to ponder deep flourishing for all of your children and for your entire creation. Empower us to live by your way in the world. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy One, help us to embody the peace that we pass to one another. By so doing, may we be your peace in the world. Help us begin the process of healing and deliverance. Help us form new ways of being in mutuality, love and justice with and through one another. Empower us to live out of your love in all that we do, healing divisions, addressing enmity, reaching out to those we perceive as enemies. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of all nations, we pray for all countries around the globe — for those who have been charged to exercise leadership on behalf of the common good. Help them to discern wise use of resources to address the needs of citizens suffering from war and its grave economic strains. And move us all to attend to the cries of the marginal in our midst. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying, “**Our Father...**”

***Hymn of Choice # (Pianist Chooses)**

Charge and benediction

Go forth into the world in peace.
Knowing that God's goodness and mercy follow us.
Lift up the broken hearted.

Stand with the oppressed.
And let us do everything out of the love of God,
which we know in Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Postlude *Wade in the Water*

Jessye Whitis, pianist

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