

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 29, 2021
8:00 & 10:30 AM



Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available from the ushers and a professionally staffed nursery is available from 7:45 AM to 11:45 AM. Follow the signs or ask any member for directions.

To assist you during worship: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher and the pastors will be happy to commune you at your pew.

Offerings: St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen. Individual wired devices coming soon!

Ministers: The People of St. John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

pastorbcalet@stjohnssummit.org

Donna Garzinsky, Director of Music

dgarzinsky@stjohnssummit.org

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Jessica Damrow Sherman, Communications Coordinator

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Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

wk154linda@gmail.com

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery

We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

Prayer Before Worship

Unchanging God, you have blessed us forever through the Beloved One, Jesus Christ our Lord. Born again by your word of truth, let us live out your love, doing your word, caring for the weak and vulnerable in their distress, and ever pursuing your reign of justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year B, Vol. 2

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE “Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”

By Marcel Dupré

WELCOME

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 520 Dearest Jesus, at Your Word



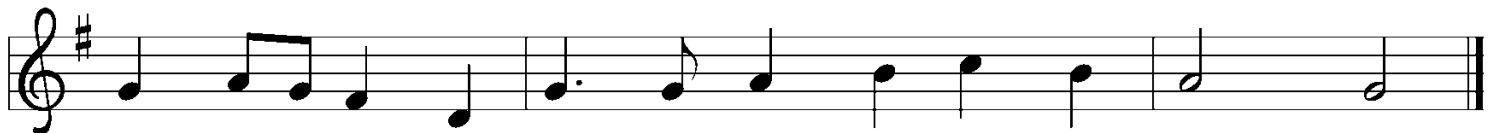
1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

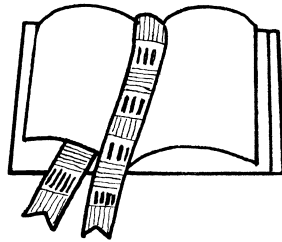
Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
Music: LIEBSER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. ***The assembly responds:*** Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15

Spoken responsively.

¹Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING James 1:17–27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?”

⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The gospel is proclaimed, concluding: The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

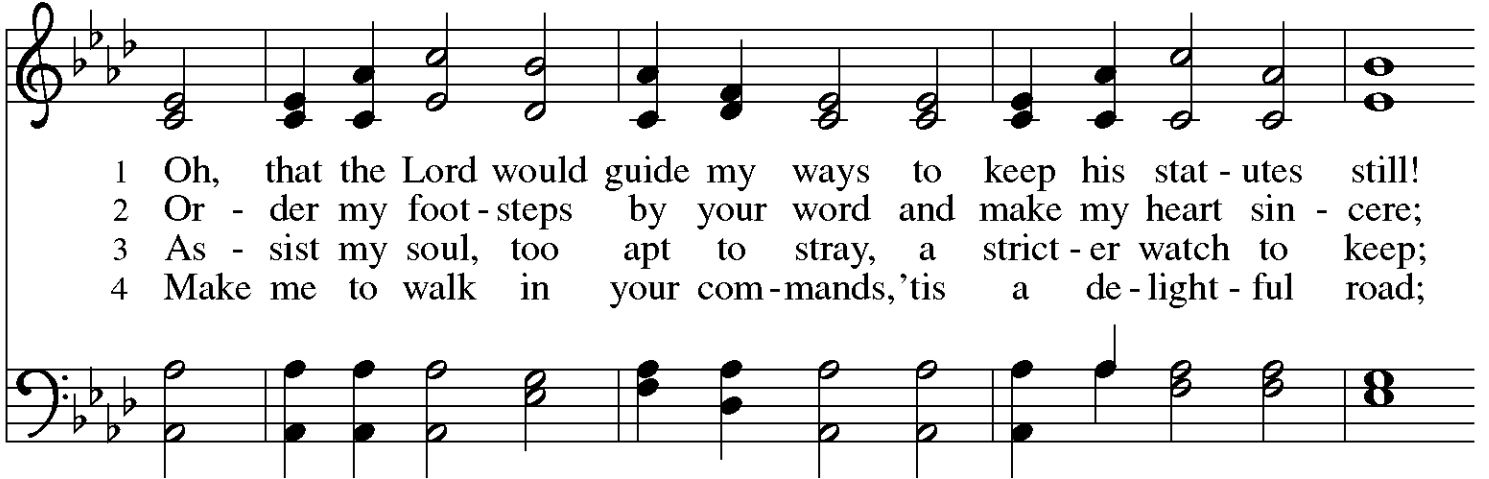
Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 772 Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.** *Response at the conclusion of the prayer: Amen.*

BLESSING AN ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE

10:30 Service ONLY

See Insert

HYMN ACS 1040 Love Has Brought Us Here Together

10:30 Service ONLY

See Insert

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We present monetary, food, and other offerings for God's mission and this congregation's ministry. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, or want information about mailing checks, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org/giving or scan this code.



OFFERING MUSIC Variation on "Give Me Jesus"

By Cardon Burnham

Please stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

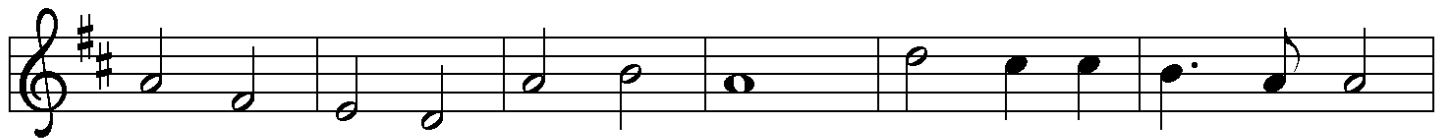
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



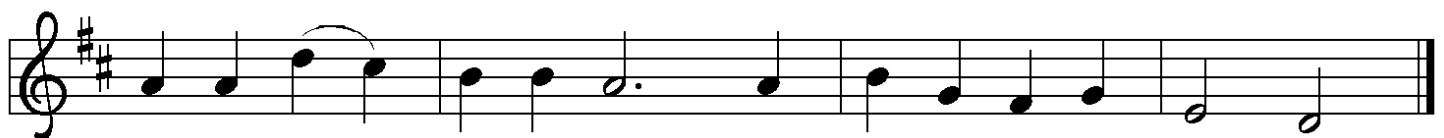
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



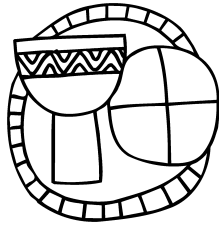
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

*If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.
The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.
The assisting minister serves the wine / grape juice in pre-filled individual cups.
You may pick up your personal cup, being careful to only touch that cup.
Step aside and drink the wine, placing the used cup in the return tray.*

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.

If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 714 O God of Mercy, God of Light
10:30 Service ONLY



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
word and thought may work a work for you.
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
may we each other's burdens share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.

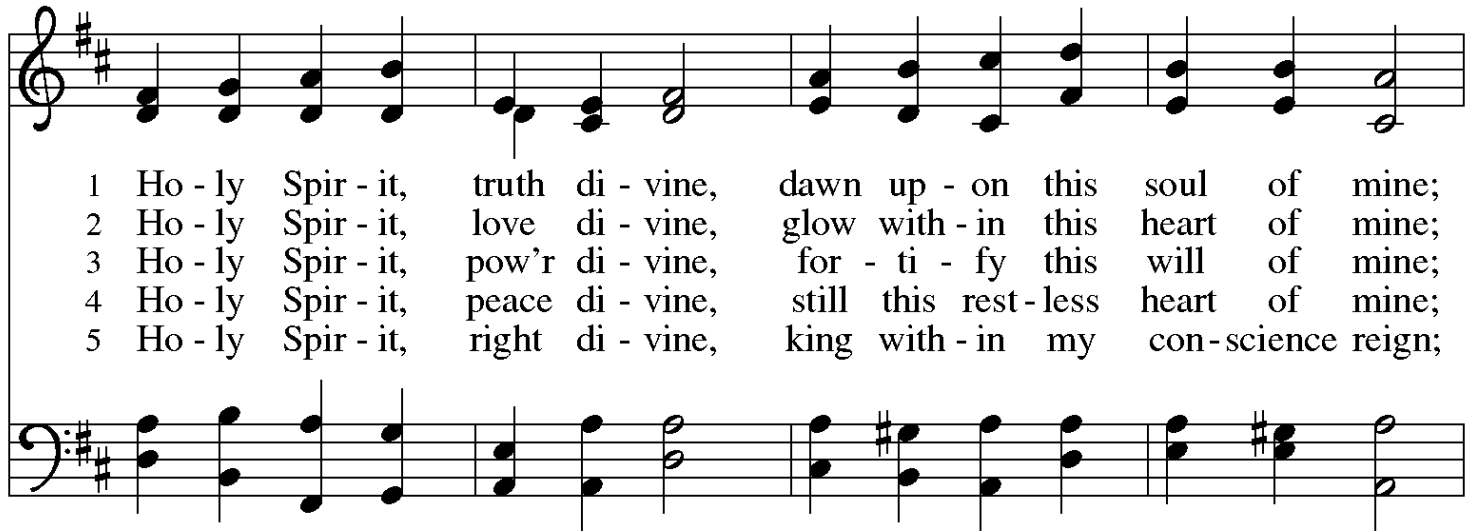
6 And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
all those who live in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.

Music: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 398 Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

10:30 Service ONLY



1 Ho - ly Spir - it, truth di - vine, dawn up - on this soul of mine;
2 Ho - ly Spir - it, love di - vine, glow with - in this heart of mine;
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, for - ti - fy this will of mine;
4 Ho - ly Spir - it, peace di - vine, still this rest - less heart of mine;
5 Ho - ly Spir - it, right di - vine, king with - in my con - science reign;



breath of God and in - ward light, wake my spir - it, clear my sight.
kin - dle ev - 'ry high de - sire; purge me with your ho - ly fire.
by your will I strong - ly live, brave - ly bear, and no - bly strive.
speak to calm this toss - ing sea, stayed in your tran - quil - i - ty.
be my guide, and I shall be firm - ly bound, for - ev - er free.

Text: Samuel Longfellow, 1819–1892

Music: SONG 13, Orlando Gibbons, 1583–1625

Please stand.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 404 Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove

1 Come, gra - cious Spir - it, heav'n - ly dove, with light and
2 The light of truth to us dis - play and make us
3 Lead us to Christ, the liv - ing way, nor let us
4 Lead us to heav'n, that we may share full - ness of

com - fort from a - bove. Come, be our guard - ian
 know and choose your way; plant ho - ly fear in
 from his pas - tures stray. Lead us in ho - li -
 joy for - ev - er there; lead us to our e -

and our guide; o'er ev - 'ry thought and step pre - side.
 ev - 'ry heart, that we from God may ne'er de - part.
 ness, the road that we must take to dwell with God
 ter - nal rest, to be with God for - ev - er blest.

Text: Simon Browne, 1680–1732, alt.
 Music: HERR JESU CHRIST, MEINES, German folk tune, 15th cent.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “O That Will Be Joyful!”

Attributed to Abraham Merrell,
 Arr. and edt. by Jon Spong

August 29, 2021

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by the Cristino family in loving memory of Jean Grabinsky and in honor of Bill & Linda Walker's 50th wedding anniversary by Bill & Linda Walker and Bruce Davidson & Don Barb.

Blessing of Backpacks & Briefcases, Sunday, September 5 at the 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM worship service. Bring your backpack or briefcase to church and receive a blessing tag and a prayer as we return to work and school.

Social Ministry & Social Justice Committee's Next Movie Night will be **Saturday, September 11 at 7:00 PM**

Upcoming Music Ensemble Rehearsals: Adult Choir: **Wednesday, September 15, 7:45 PM**, Lutherringers: **Sunday, September 26, 12:00 PM**, Recorder Ensemble: **Wednesday, September 29, 7:00 PM**. Specific rehearsal locations in the church to be announced closer to the above dates. Please join us!

Homecoming Sunday/Rally Day, September 19. Help us kick off the program year. Pastor Moore will be back with us on this day. We will have a meal and party following the 10:30 AM service. Don't miss this opportunity for fellowship and fun!

Summer Reading: The Anti-Racism Committee is holding discussions about our summer book reads. Discussion of *The Warmth of Other Suns* will be held on **Tuesdays, September 14 & 21 at 7:00 PM** on Zoom. Discussion of *The Color of Law* will be held in November. Books are available in the office for \$10.

Transforming White Privilege: NJ Synod will be offering a three-session training (via Zoom) to better identify, talk productively about, and address white privilege. This is an introductory experience designed to increase awareness of how white privilege operates. This is a free offering however, it is intended that participants attend all three trainings. Dates: **September 18, 25 & October 2 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM OR October 7, 14 & 21 from 6:30-9:30 PM**. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/28dkuf3t>. For information contact Rev. Sara Lilja at slilja@learnnj.org or Dr. Dianne Browne at drbrowne22@gmail.com.

Cross Roads Camp Fall Programs: Wednesdays Away Return This Fall at Cross Roads, with both in-person and virtual options for participation. **Cross Roads Women's Retreat:** There are two weekends offered for the in-person retreat (September and October), and one virtual option. The theme is "The Face of God." Explore all the upcoming dates and themes, along with registration information for all programs on the [Cross Roads website](#).

Giving Is Important. We count on your generous offerings to continue to do our robust ministry. Please give generously. You may [give online](#) or mail checks to the church.

BLESSING FOR AN ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE

Bill and Linda Walker

Dear people of God, we gather to remember and celebrate promises made and promises kept and to give thanks for the faithfulness of God throughout all our years. As seasons change, and year follows year, the presence of God remains constant. In this is our hope: not that we have loved God but that God first loved us and calls us to love one another.

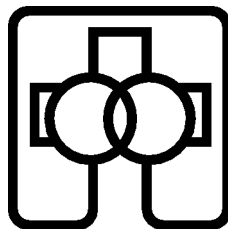
Today we celebrate that 50 years ago, Bill and Linda Walker came before God to make promises to each other, a commitment to live and love together their whole lives through.

A reading from the Song of Solomon: Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. *Song of Solomon 8:6–7*

A reading from 1 Corinthians: Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. *1 Corinthians 13:4–8*

Let us pray. Holy and gracious God, you surround and uphold us in every moment of life. You give us family, friends, companions, and partners for our life's journey. We give you thanks for such enduring relationships, that make our lives more abundant than we could ever ask or imagine. We thank you especially for the love and faithfulness Linda and Bill share. As they remember marriage promises made long ago, help them to reaffirm their solemn vows. Give fresh grace to them for the years ahead. May they continue to grow in mutual love, extend forgiveness when they hurt each other, and practice patience in adversity. By the power of your Holy Spirit, bless their memories and strengthen their hopes, that their joy may overflow. In Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

The grace of God be with you, the love of Jesus Christ surround you, the Holy Spirit keep you, that you may live in faith, abound in hope, and grow in love, both now and forevermore. **Amen.**



HYMN ACS 1040 Love Has Brought Us Here Together



1 Love has brought us here to - geth - er; love of fam - 'ly,
2 Love is gen - tle, love is pa - tient, soft in words and
3 Love does not re - joice at e - vil; love re - joic - es



love of friends; love, our vow till death should part us; love, God's
kind in deeds. Love is strong and nev - er pom - pous; love puts
in the right. Keen in giv - ing and for - giv - ing, spread - ing



gift, that nev - er ends. From our birth, through-out our life - time,
first the oth - er's needs. Not quick - tem - pered or re - sent - ful,
love is love's de - light. When two peo - ple pledge their u - nion,



love's in - sis - tence calls our name. Floods of wa - ters
prone to take of - fense or brood, love ex - cels in
all who wit - ness are re - newed, feast - ing at love's



can - not drown it or put out its danc - ing flame.
grace and mer - cy, nev - er jeal - ous, nev - er rude.
earth - ly ban - quet, tast - ing heav'n's be - at - i - tude.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

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