

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 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

pastorbscalet@stjohnssummit.org

Donna Garzinsky, Director of Music

dgarzinsky@stjohnssummit.org

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

crothman@stjohnssummit.org

Jessica Damrow Sherman, Communications Coordinator

jdamrowsherman@stjohnssummit.org

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

Healing God, you do all things well. Illumine our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that we may receive your words and demonstrate your grace. 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 “Morning Has Broken”

Arr. Janet Linker

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.**

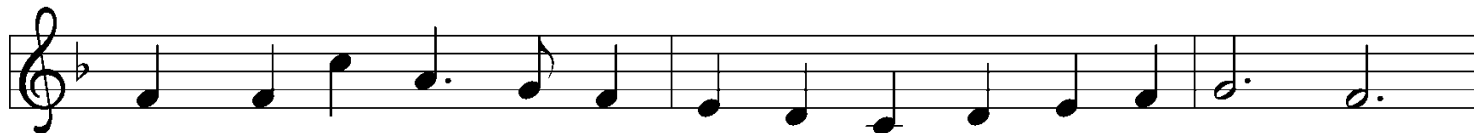
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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 858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



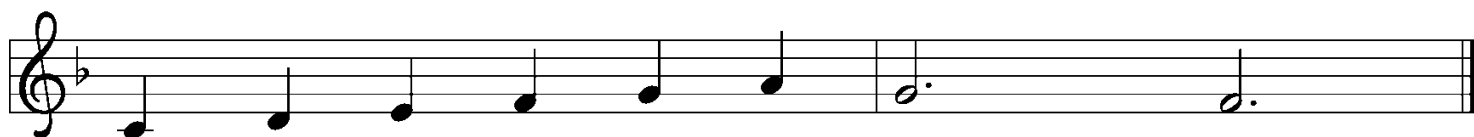
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

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. Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature it is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the body and drink the blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

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

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Isaiah 35:4–7a

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

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

PSALM 146

Spoken responsively.

¹Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

²**I will praise the Lord as long as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The Lord sets the captive free.

⁸**The Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**

⁹The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The Lord shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING James 2:1–17

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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 7:24–37

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

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

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 ACS 1043 Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

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.*

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 Meditation on *Lobe Den Herren*

Arr. Wayne H. Dietterick

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.

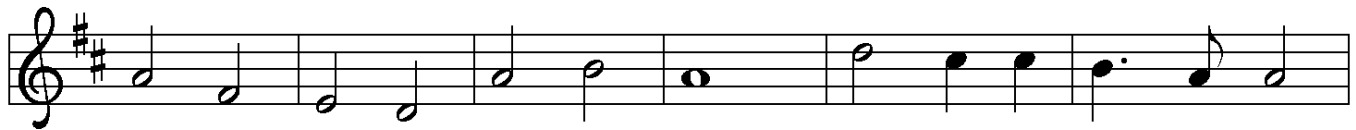
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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



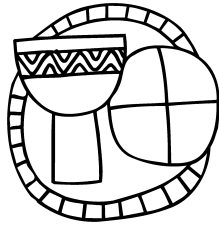
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 879 For the Beauty of the Earth

10:30 Service ONLY



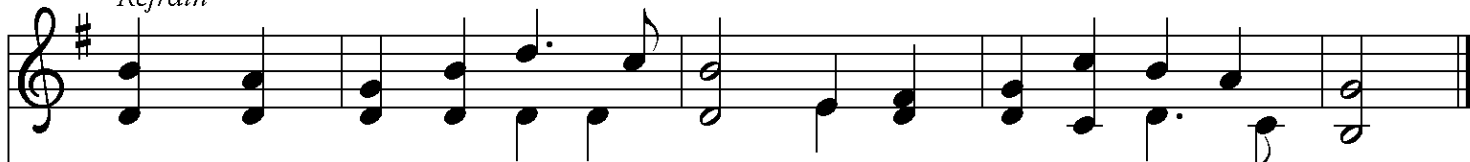
1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



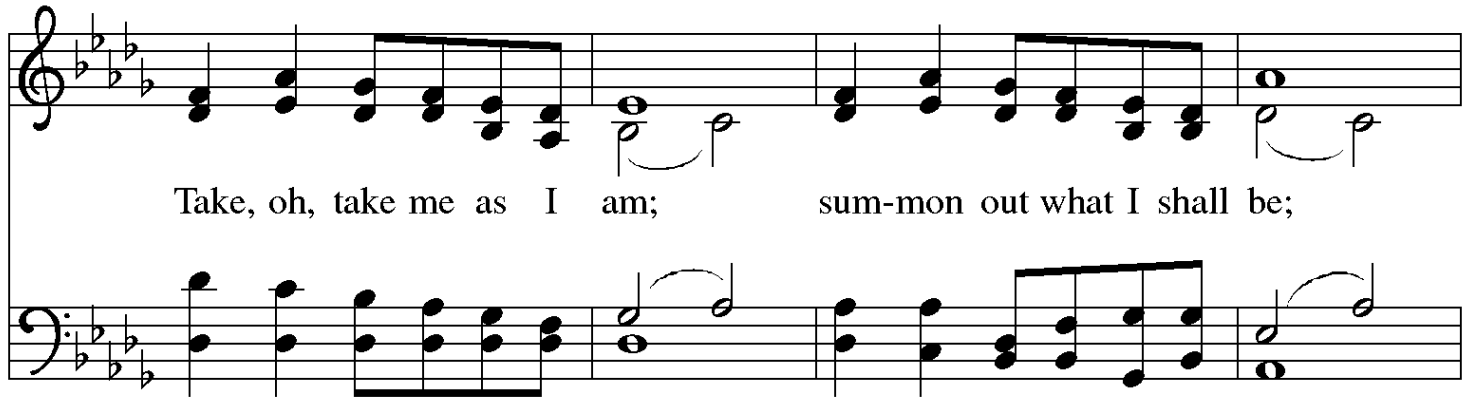
Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.



COMMUNION HYMN ELW 814 Take, Oh, Take Me as I Am
10:30 Service ONLY



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;

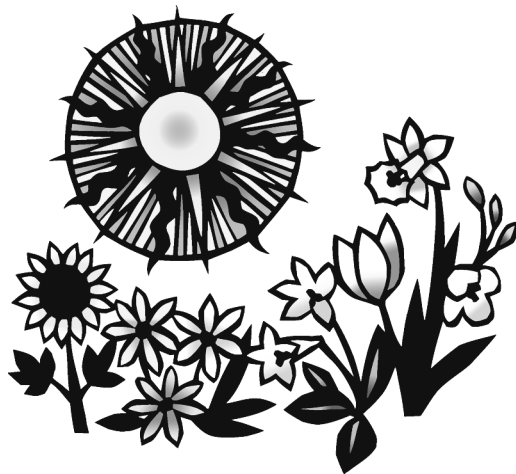


set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



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

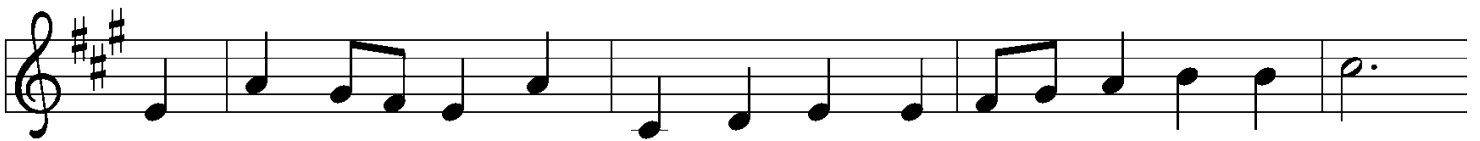
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS & BRIEFCASES

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 722 O Christ, Your Heart Compassionate



- 1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.
- 2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
- 3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
- 4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.
so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.
that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.
whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com-bined in per-fect rhyme
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a-lone,
We are your bod-y, ris-en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield
come, make your church a ser-vant church that walks your ser-vant ways,



to write God's love in hu-man deeds, e-ter-ni-ty in time.
and help us bear an-oth-er's pain as though it were our own.
that through our life and min-is-try your love may be re-vealed.
whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac-ri-fice of praise!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com

800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Dance on *Lobe Den Herren*

Arr. Wayne H. Dietterick



September 5, 2021

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Marie Patterson by Beverly Sharpe.

Social Ministry & Social Justice Committee's Next Movie Night will be **Saturday, September 11 at 7:00 PM**. We'll be watching "WALL-E," and using the environmental themes of this film as we consider steps we can take to combat climate change. Popcorn and post-movie discussion included! Bring a lawn chair. If it rains, we'll shift our movie from the parking lot to Hinman Hall. Hope to see you there!

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!

Family Promise Volunteer Opportunity, September 19–26: St. John's will be virtually hosting Family Promise families currently in temporary shelter apartments during COVID. Meal preparation/deliveries and gift cards are needed. Please contact Marifel Calis for information on how you can help support this very important ministry.

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! Please sign up in the rear entry.

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@leamnj.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.

LITANY AND PRAYER AFTER A STORM

O Lord, when the waters rage and foam,

Still the storms and grant us your peace.

When the gift of creation becomes burden,

Still the storms and grant us your peace.

When our fears threaten to overtake us,

Still the storms and grant us your peace.

Speak your word to the wind and to the sea,

Fill us with faith.

Show us your care in the service of others,

Fill us with compassion.

Make the joy of your peace overflow in our lives,

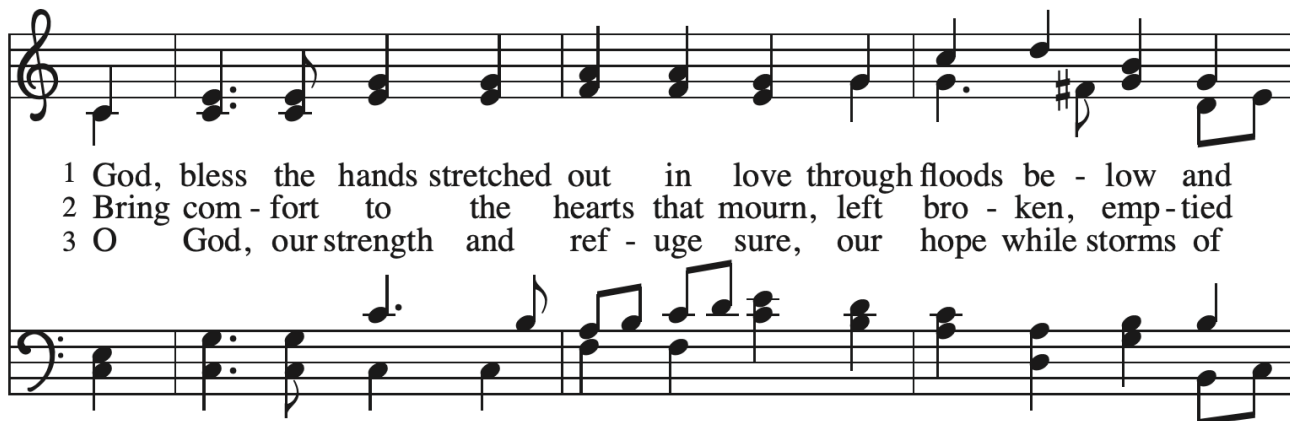
Fill us with hope.

Let us pray. Loving God, we come to you trusting in your mercy and knowing that your steadfast love endures forever. Look with mercy on those who are harmed or displaced by wind and water. Give them your strength to meet the days ahead, your peace, which surpasses all understanding, and renewed hope for restoration and rebuilding. Move in those who are able to give aid, that we may be your hands and heart on earth. Be with all who offer assistance that your Spirit may uphold them. As you have made water a sign of your kingdom, and of cleansing and rebirth, grant your people vision to see new life on the other side of disaster. To you be given all honor and praise, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN NOTE: ACS 1022 God, Bless the Hands MELITA

In 2017 the Atlantic hurricane season was one of the most deadly and costly on record—evidence of the increasing severity of storms resulting from climate change. Marty Haugen wrote this prayer to the tune MELITA by John B. Dykes, connecting it to the affirmation “On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand” (“My hope is built on nothing less,” ELW 597) and to another prayer: “for those in peril on the sea” (“Eternal Father, strong to save,” ELW 756). The three stanzas pray for rescue and relief workers, for victims of storms, and for wisdom to work to end climate change.

HYMN ACS 1022 God, Bless the Hands



1 God, bless the hands stretched out in love through floods be - low and
2 Bring com - fort to the hearts that mourn, left bro - ken, emp - tied
3 O God, our strength and ref - uge sure, our hope while storms of



storms a - bove; they search and res - cue, com - fort, calm, give
by the storm. Give hope to those in deep - est grief; em -
life en - dure: teach us to live in har - mo - ny with



shel - ter, of - fer heal - ing balm. Oh, guard them by your
pow - er us to bring re - lief. To you, O God, we
earth and riv - er, sky and sea, pre - serv - ing wa - ters,



stead - fast hand; reach out in love to help us stand.
raise our hands. Save us, we pray, from sink - ing sands.
air, and lands as ho - ly work for hu - man hands.