



NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 25, 2021

Some tips for our time together:

1. Please mute your Zoom feed. There will be moments for you to share as you feel led at which point you can unmute.
2. As is typical, the singing and bold print are for communal response. Caroline and Dave will be unmuted and be the “out-loud” voice of the people. We invite you to sing and say the words aloud along with them where you are while muted.
3. Follow along in the bulletin on a separate device (e.g. phone)
4. We aren’t sure, but it might make sense to switch back and forth between the ‘gallery’ and ‘active speaker’ modes. Perhaps utilizing active speaker mode for the reading of scripture, homily/sharing, and prayers of the people, while using gallery for the rest.
5. Create sacred space. Find symbols of the faith—cross, candles, Bible, bowl of water, icons—to put on a table near you during this time.
6. Asterisks in the bulletin indicate where the congregation is invited to stand.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Come and experience the extravagant dimensions of God's love!

We are upheld and surrounded by God's love.

Reach out and experience the breadth!

We are upheld and surrounded by God's love.

Test its length!

We are upheld and surrounded by God's love.

Plumb the depths!

We are upheld and surrounded by God's love.

Rise to the heights!

We are upheld and surrounded by God's love.

Come and worship the God of unending and extravagant love!

SONG - God Welcomes All

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

SONG* - Great Are You, Lord

You are life, you are love,
you bring light to the darkness.
You give hope, you restore
every heart that is broken.
And great are you, Lord.

It's your breath that fills us,
so we pour out our praise,
we pour out our praise.
It's your breath that fills us,
so we pour out our praise to you only.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
you have loved us with limitless love,
but we have not loved you with our whole being.
You have loved us with limitless love,
but we have not loved our neighbor.
You have loved us with limitless love,
but we have not loved ourselves.
You have loved us with limitless love,

but we have not loved and cared for your creation.

Forgive us, Lover of our souls,

that we may live full lives

in the fullness of your love.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

SONG - Your Love Is Washing Over Me

Your love is washing over me,

your love is washing over me.

Your love is washing over me,

and I won't be frightened any more.

2. Your grace is washing over me...

3. Your joy is washing over me...

4. Your hope is washing over me...

WORD

EPISTLE LESSON - Ephesians 3:14-21 (*The Message*)

My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

Glory to God in the church!

Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!

Glory down all the generations!

Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes!

GOSPEL LESSON* - John 6:1-21

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SERMON- Pastor Aaron

RESPONSE

SONG - O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
vast, unmeasured, boundless, free—
rolling as a mighty ocean
in its fullness over me.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
'tis a heaven of heavens to me;
and it lifts me up to glory,
for it lifts me up to thee.

Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of you love,
leading onward, leading homeward
to your glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep, love of Jesus!
Spread his praise from shore to shore!
how he loves us, ever loves us,
changes never, nevermore!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

(To give online, visit rescov.org/give)

DOXOLOGY*

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

SENDING

SONG* - You Are Love

You are love, let heav'n adore you;
you are love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before you,
and exalt you with one voice.
You who laid the earth's foundation,
you who spread the heav'ns above,
you who breathe through all creation,
God, you are eternal Love.

You are love: and though sin grieves us
and afflicts the souls of all,
your eternal love conceives us,
holds and guides us when we fall.
Sin and death and hell shall never
oe'r us final triumph gain.
You are love, so Love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

You are love, and you enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp you holdeth
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within your heart, O God.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*