



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 22, 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* (*Psalm 27:1, 7-10, 13-14, adapted from The Message*)

Light, space, zest—
that's GOD!

**So, with God on my side, why should I fear?
why should I be afraid?**

Listen, GOD, I'm calling at the top of my lungs:

"Be good to me! Answer me!"

When my heart whispered, "Seek God,"
my whole being replied,

"I'm seeking God!

Don't hide from me now!

You've always been right there for me;
don't turn your back on me now.

**Don't throw me out, don't abandon me;
you've always kept the door open.**

My father and mother walked out and left me,
but God took me in.

**I'm sure now I'll see God's goodness
in the exuberant earth.**

Stay with GOD!

Take heart. Don't quit.

I'll say it again:
Stay with GOD!

SONG - Everlasting God

The Lord is my light and salvation,
whom shall I fear?
Whom shall I be afraid? (2x)

I will wait on you.
I will wait on you.
I will trust in you. I will trust in you. (2x)

I will remain confident in this,
I will see the goodness of the Lord. (2x)

Refrain:

We set our hope on you.
We set our hope on your love.
We set our hope on the one
who is the everlasting God,
you are the everlasting God.

SONG - Be Still and Know

Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(adapted from Joanna Harader)*

**God of the foolish cross,
you are not the savior we expect.
Your power does not look like the power
we want our God to demonstrate.
Your wisdom makes no sense to us.
Our ways of frantic movement and hurry
seem wiser than your ways of calm stillness and peace.
Forgive us our false assumptions.
Clarify our clouded vision.
Free us to relax into your foolishness
and stay in your love and grace.**

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 - Stand Firm

Stand, oh, stand firm;
stand, oh, stand firm;
stand, oh, stand firm,
and see what the Lord can do.

WORD

EPISTLE LESSON - Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be

given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

GOSPEL LESSON* - John 6:56-71

[And Jesus said], 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.'

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.' Jesus answered them, 'Did I not choose you, the twelve? Yet one of you is a devil.' He was speaking of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for he, though one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SERMON - Stay - Pastor Dave

RESPONSE

SONG - Stay with Me

Stay with me;
remain here with me.
Watch and pray.
Watch and pray.

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* - God, Be the Love

God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me,
O Christ, surround me.

Bind to myself the name of Holy;
great cloud of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness:
O Christ, surround me,
O Christ, surround me.

Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight;
flashing of lightning, strength of wind;
depth of the sea to soil of planet:
O Christ, surround me,
O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey,
going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above and always,
O Christ, surround me,
O Christ, surround me.

Christ in the eye of all who see me;
Christ in the ear that hears my voice;
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me,
O Christ, surround me.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*