



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 19, 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* (adapted from Nancy C. Townley)

Happy are those who follow the ways of the Lord.

God's ways are just and merciful.

Those who follow God's ways
are continually nourished in faith.

In all they do, they prosper.

Come, let us open our hearts to God's compassionate love.

Let us celebrate God's mercy and justice.

SONG* - Na Nzela Na Lola/As Long As We Follow

As long as we follow
in the way that God is leading,
malembe tokotambola. (*We know God's reign will surely come.*)
As long as we follow in the way that God is leading,
malembe tokotambola.

Refrain:

Malembe, malembe, (*We know this, we know this,*
malembe tokotambola. *We know God's reign will surely come.*)

SONG* - Great Are You, Lord

You are life, you are love,	You raise up all the poor
you bring light to the darkness.	but you cast down the mighty,
You give hope, you restore	you turn grief into joy
every heart that is broken.	in your kingdom of justice.
And great are you, Lord.	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 (adapted from Amy Loving)

**Holy and gracious Christ,
who calls us to follow
your way of humility and love;
we confess that our ways
are too often not like yours:
We desire power,
you call us to service.
We want to be first,
you walk with the last and the least.
We strive after greatness,
you make yourself known**

**in the little and the small.
Forgive us, O Savior,
and welcome us again
with your embrace of 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 - Take, O Take Me As I Am

Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.

WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON - Jeremiah 11:18-20

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!" But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

GOSPEL LESSON* - Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

RESPONSE

SONG - Christ, You Call Us All to Service

Christ, you call us all to service,
call us all who follow you;
plant in us a deep commitment
all your work and will to do.
Fire a passion for your justice,
in us kindle love of peace;
help us heal the brokenhearted,
to the captive bring release.

Let us be a servant people,
reconciling, ending strife,
seeking fairer ways of sharing
and of ord'ring human life.
Fill us with a glowing vision
of the world as it should be;
send us forth to change that vision
into blessed reality.

Teach us how to work together,
siblings serving side by side,
equal partners in the struggle,
in the cause of truth allied.
To each one some gift is given,
ev'ry person, young or old;
help us use each skill and talent
your great purpose to unfold.

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* - As We Gather at Your Table

As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make love's vict'ry known.

Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant love will welcome
those who had been last and least.

There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*