



The Journey is Home

Communion Sunday

October 1, 2023

MEDITATION

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:8-9 NIV

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

P: And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **All: And also with you.**

PRELUDE

“Song of India”

Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Chris Polloni, Deacon

L: God calls to us, saying: My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—

All: And the people say: things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of our God, God’s power, and the wonders God has done.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

“Rejoice in the Lord Always” 2x

In Pew

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Beth Merrill Neel, adapted*) *Chris Polloni, Deacon*
Forgive us, O God, when under the weight of daily news, global warnings, and warring madness, we waiver in hope, for all hope rests in You, for throughout all time You have been our rock. Forgive us, O God, when in our hurried pace, we forget to consider the impact of our actions and words, for You have called us to a pace that allows us to love one another, as You have loved us. At the end of the day, may we find the courage to evaluate our actions and make amends, setting to rights the relationships in our lives, that we might find peace in Your presence. Guide our feet, the words of our mouths, the works of our hands, the thoughts of our hearts, and whatever vision through which we navigate the world, so that we might see what You see and restore what You created for us to inherit. For thine is this kin-dom, for ever. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rev. Christina Williams

All: The God who made us will not let our feet be moved, the God who made us neither slumbers, nor sleeps. Shade on our right hand, sun by day and moon by night. A Perfect Guide in ways of justice—always forgiving for those who seek it, in faith and in love.

***OPENING HYMN**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Black 436

WORD FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Lisa Allen

ANTHEM *“Christ be With Me”* (attributed to St. Patrick) *by Hal Hobson* *Chancel Choir*

GOSPEL READING | John 14:1-7

David Kayajan

L: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

NOW TESTAMENT READING | “Crossing the Threshold”

Being Home, Gunilla Norris

REFLECTION

“The Journey is Home”

Rev. Claire Bamberg

RESPONSE OF FAITH

We affirm that we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit. We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity planted more deeply than all that is wrong. We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life, the unfolding purpose of God for ever at work in ourselves and the world.

RESPONSIVE HYMN

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

Black 286

UNISON PASTORAL PRAYER AND JOY & CONCERNS

Rev. Christina Williams

After the pastoral prayer, you are invited to share your joys and concerns. When names are spoken out loud, we are all invited to respond, "O Lord, hear our prayers."

SUNG LORD'S PRAYER

In Pew

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. Christina Williams

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Peace I Leave With You" *by Amy Beach*

Chancel Choir

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love had done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Giver of life, we bring you these gifts knowing that all human life is precious and belongs to you. We offer these gifts as a pledge of our love and loyalty to you, each other, and all your beloved, especially those who hunger and thirst. We commit ourselves to serve as Jesus served, and to walk in his way of love, joy, and mercy. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

SONG OF INVITATION

"Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life"

Black 331

INVITATION & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF BLESSING

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, thank you for this meal shared in the company of friends. Having rested and been fed, may we go from this place committed to feeding any person who hungers for love, offering the same blessing we have received. In Christ's name. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

Black 82

*BENEDICTION

"For a New Beginning"

A poem by John O'Donohue

SUNG BENEDICTION

"Spirit of Life"

by Carolyn McDade 1981

Chancel Choir

Spirit of Life, Come unto me.

Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.

Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;

Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.

Roots hold me close; wings set me free;

Spirit of Life, come to me, Come to me.

POSTLUDE

"Sonate Op. 49, No 2 Allegro, ma non troppo" *Ludvig van Beethoven*

**Stand in body or spirit as you are able.*

Many thanks to all the volunteers who enrich our morning together!

Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg, Guest Preacher

Faith Duffy, Tech Deacon

Chris Polloni, Deacon

Faith Duffy, Carolee Packard, Kay Clark

David Kayajan, Lay Reader

Sue Long, Hospitality

Members of the Chancel Choir

Music covered under One License # A-728849



The flowers today are given in celebration of family
and friends by Marcia McLaughlin.