



Service of Worship November 16 , 2025 9:30am
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

*The prelude, the first act of worship, sets the tone for what is to follow.
So, we invite you as worshipers to gather, to transition from your busy lives
into a sacred place of communion with God and with each other. – Dr. Kimo Smith, adapted*

PRELUDE

“Thanksgiving Medley”
Charter Ringers

arr. Julie Turner

*In worship following reflective music, we are requesting a response of quiet or a
contemplative “amen.” Any music that elicits a response of applause is to the glory of God.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The day is coming, says the Lord, when all that is false and fleeting will
fall away.

ALL: But for those who trust in God, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing
in its wings.

ONE: Though the world may tremble and stones may crumble, God remains our
refuge and strength.

ALL: We come to worship the One who holds our future, who redeems our past,
and sustains us in the present.

*HYMN 463

“How Firm a Foundation”

FOUNDATION

463 How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Emily Nelson Dixon

Jesus reminds us that even when the world feels uncertain, our calling is to bear witness to God's love. Yet too often we respond to fear with despair, to conflict with silence, and to suffering with apathy. Let us turn again to the God who refines and restores us, confessing our sins together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Refining God, you promise to make all things new, but we cling to what is familiar and safe. You call us to endure in faith, but we are quick to give in to fear. When the world feels unsteady, we grasp for control instead of trusting your care. Forgive us when our hope falters. Cleanse us like silver in the fire, and rekindle in us the courage to follow your way, trusting that your light will rise with healing in its wings. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: The God who created the world is also the God who redeems it. The One who judges with truth also restores with mercy. In Jesus Christ, we are made new — refined, renewed, and set free to serve. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

*HYMN 37

"Let All Things Now Living"

ASHGROVE

37 Let All Things Now Living

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks-giv - ing
 2 By law God en - forc - es, the stars in their cours - es,

to God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;
 the sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains,

by guid - ing us on to the end of our days.
 the depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

Harmony God's ban - ners are o'er us; pure light goes be - fore us,
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re - joic - ing;

a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:
 with glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise,

Written for an easy-to-sing folk melody familiar in England as well as Wales, this 20th-century North American text bears many resemblances to both Psalm 148 and the traditional canticle *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini* (Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord).

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

till shad-ows have van-ished, all fear-ful-ness ban-ished,
till all things now liv-ing u-nite in thanks-giv-ing:
as for-ward we trav-el from light in-to light.
to God in the high-est, ho-san-na and praise!

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Malachi 4:1–2a (NRSVue)

Barbara Douglas

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

ANTHEM

“My Father’s World”

arr. Joel Raney

In memory of Mary Ann Wilson from the Wilson Family
Chancel Choir with the Charter Ringers
Linda Dover & Geri Allcorn, piano

*This is my Father’s world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world: the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker’s praise.*

*This is my Father’s world: He shines in all that’s fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere*

*This is my Father’s world: O let me ne’er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.*

*This is my Father’s world: why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let earth be glad!*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 21:5–19 (NRSVue)

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Full Disclosure”

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Linda Dover, organist

Sebastian Temple

arr. Mark Hayes

[Sending](#)

694 Great God of Every Blessing

1 Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care,
2 Your Word is our sal - va - tion, the source of end - less grace,
3 Your Spir - it is our teach - er, the light that guides our search,

you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share.
in death and life ex - tend - ing your cov - e - nant em - brace.
trans - form - ing bro - ken peo - ple in - to the ho - ly church.

How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
In Christ we are one bod - y; each mem - ber has a part:
For feed - ing us with mer - cy, for wis - dom you im - part:

sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.

Written for the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth, this text sums up his liturgical theology, ending each stanza with his motto: *Cor meum tibi offero, Domine, prompte et sincere*. By moving from plural to singular the stanzas show how corporate faith becomes personal piety.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

“Postlude in G Major”

Linda Dover, organist

G.F. Handel

arr. Walter E. Buszin

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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