



Service of Worship August 10, 2025 9:30am
Ninth 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

“Lord of the Dance”
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Mark Hayes

*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

Emily Nelson Dixon

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come, beloved children of God — Not because of what others say about
you, Not because of what you have or haven’t done —

ALL: But because the One who made you calls you worthy.

ONE: We come to hear again that we are loved.


**ALL: We come to remember that we are God's handiwork. We come because
God delights in us! Let us worship the God who knows us by name and
declares: *You are special.***

*HYMN 377

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

HOUSTON

377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

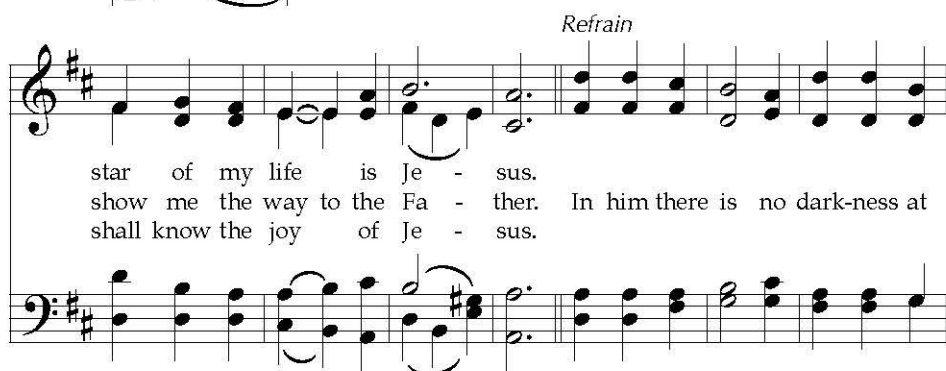


1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at
 3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with

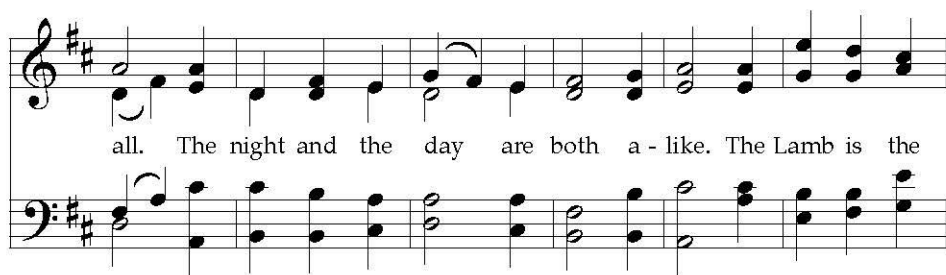


Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain



star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.



all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

The author-composer of this unrhymed hymn regards it as a meditation and prayer deeply rooted in many scriptures, most connected with the theme of light: Genesis 1:17; Psalm 139:12; Isaiah 60:19; Malachi 4:2; John 14:8; Ephesians 5:8; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 John 1:5; Revelation 21:23.

A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH



TEACHER COMMISSIONING

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Amy Sellers and Emily Nelson Dixon

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

(Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time, is on summer hiatus. 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

So often, we listen to the wrong voices.
We let others define our worth.
We are always judging and comparing, rather than living in grace.
Come now. Lay it down.
The One who made you is waiting to speak a better word.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

God of mercy, You made us in love, but we often forget. We let the world's labels stick to us. We believe the lies that we are not enough, Or that we're better than someone else. We judge others by the world's standards instead of seeing them as You do. Forgive us. Peel off the labels. Speak your truth to our hearts, And remind us who we really are: Your beloved children. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The One who made you loves you with no conditions. God's grace sticks deeper than any label the world can place. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, free, and named beloved.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

God Welcomes All

399

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

This “short song,” as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008

MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008

Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

THEMBA AMEN

4.4.9

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 43:1–5a (CEB)

Sarah Evans

But now, says the Lord—
 the one who created you, Jacob,
 the one who formed you, Israel:
 Don't fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name; you are mine.
 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 when through the rivers, they won't sweep over you.
 When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched
 and flame won't burn you.
 I am the Lord your God,
 the holy one of Israel, your savior.
 I have given Egypt as your ransom,
 Cush and Seba in your place.
 Because you are precious in my eyes,

you are honored, and I love you.
I give people in your place,
and nations in exchange for your life.
Don't fear,
I am with you.

ANTHEM

"With Every Breath"

Ken Medema

*With every breath I take, God, I will praise You.
With every word I speak, new hope I will sing.
When I lie down at night,
or when I greet the morning light,
Love of my heart, praises to You gladly I'll bring.*

*When I am weak, when I am strong,
view the bright day all the night long.
When there is hope, when hope is gone,
I will sing on*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 139:1–14

Lord, you have examined me.
You know me.
You know when I sit down and when I stand up.
Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.
You study my traveling and resting.
You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.
There isn't a word on my tongue, Lord,
that you don't already know completely.
You surround me—front and back.
You put your hand on me.
That kind of knowledge is too much for me;
it's so high above me that I can't reach it.
Where could I go to get away from your spirit?
Where could I go to escape your presence?
If I went up to heaven, you would be there.
If I went down to the grave, you would be there too!
If I could fly on the wings of dawn,
stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean—
even there your hand would guide me;
even there your strong hand would hold me tight!
If I said, "The darkness will definitely hide me;
the light will become night around me,"

even then the darkness isn't too dark for you!
Nighttime would shine bright as day,
because darkness is the same as light to you!
You are the one who created my innermost parts;
you knit me together while I was still in my mother's womb.
I give thanks to you that I was marvelously set apart.
Your works are wonderful—I know that very well.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Who Told You That?"

Emily Nelson Dixon

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

"The Lord's Prayer"
Andrew Alka, tenor

Albert Hay Malotte

Sending

*HYMN 547

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

AR HYD Y NOS

Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547

1 "Go, my chil- dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil- dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil- dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv- ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; here my ten - der com- fort

ev - er. Go, my chil- dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 glo - ry. Go, my chil- dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 stilled you. Go, my chil- dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22–27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Emily Nelson Dixon

POSTLUDE

“Truro”

Linda Dover, organist

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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