



Service of Worship August 30, 2026 9:30am
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

GATHERING THE SUPPLIES

PRELUDE

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Jim Lucas

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING TO THE CREATIVE SPIRIT "Let Us Be Drawn In"

Leader: In the world of the driven

***People:* Let us be drawn in**

Leader: Let your love be a given

Let us be drawn in

Leader: To imagine, to dream, to create, to redeem
For the sake of the livin'

Let us be drawn in

Leader: "Listening" as part of creativity is about perceiving. We open our senses to see what is emerging. Perhaps what we start doesn't end up looking like what we thought it would. Instead, once the act of creating begins, we listen to how the Spirit is guiding our next steps and unfolding possibilities we were previously unaware of. Without paying attention in this way, we act as if we have all the answers. And when we are up against something that doesn't go our way, we see it as a negative. But what if those moments are simply Co-Creator God inviting us to see new ways of moving forward in our lives?

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Leader: Let us pray together:

Co-Creating God, you sometimes present us with different plans.

Open us to the idea that you might have something in store for us

that we have not previously been able to imagine.

Draw us into your surprises.

Give us the courage to get out of our own mold.

Amen.

* HYMN 451

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

OPEN MY EYES

Open My Eyes, That I May See 451



1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
 2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic-es of truth thou send-est clear.
 3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un-clasp and
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev-ery-thing false will
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 dis-ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy



will to see. O-pen my eyes; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!
 will to see. O-pen my ears; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!
 will to see. O-pen my heart; il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!



The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/ composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

CALL TO CONFESSION

What gets us “stuck” in the creative process? Creativity expert Adriana Diaz said, ““Creativity is a combination of making something happen and letting something happen...” Sometimes we get stuck because we are working too hard to *make* something happen when what we also need to do is *let* something unfold—to perceive that which is yearning to come to the surface if we will just let it.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of possibility, forgive us when we try to force our way forward. Forgive us when we cling to our plans so tightly that we cannot hear your invitation. When the path changes, give us courage to pause. When we do not know what comes next, teach us to listen. When your Spirit leads us somewhere unexpected, give us the grace to follow. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the Good News! God is the one who sets the boundaries of what is possible and those boundaries are not fixed, but defined by ever-new possibilities of growth. Part of the creative process is to let go and let God show us what is bubbling to the surface of our lives.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Emily Nelson Dixon

(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.)

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

*RESPONSE

“Let Us Be Drawn In”

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"LET THERE BE..."

AN IMAGINATIVE WORD "Harold and the Purple Crayon"

Crockett Johnson

One evening, after thinking it over for some time,
Harold decided to go for a walk in the moonlight.
But there wasn't any moon,
and Harold needed a moon for a walk in the moonlight.
And he needed something to walk on.
[Using his crayon], he made a long straight path
so he wouldn't get lost
and set off on his walk taking his big purple crayon with him.
But he didn't seem to be getting anywhere on the long straight path
So he left the path for a short cut across a field.
And the moon went with him.

ANTHEM

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

arr. Ed Lojeski

Chancel Choir with Linda Dover, piano
Miles McDonald, bass & Jill Endaya-Smith, drums

*I am weak, but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee*

*Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.*

*Just a closer walk with Thee,
Jesus, grant my humble plea!
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

*When the journey here is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me to Thy distant shore.
Oh Dear Lord, to Thy shore.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 16:6–15

Terri Monrad

“They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the city gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.’ And she prevailed upon us.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Drawn In: Listen”

Rev. Karen Wright

GETTING OUR HANDS DIRTY

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD WE CO-CREATE

**Lord listen to Your children praying
Lord send Your Spirit in this place
Lord listen to Your children praying
Send us love send us pow'r send us grace**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Lord listen to Your children praying
Lord send Your Spirit in this place
Lord listen to Your children praying
Send us love send us pow'r send us grace**

OFFERING OF THE CREATIVE SPIRIT

“This is my creative spirit in the world, this is my offering.
May you see the things you do, no matter how small or mundane,

as the way that you contribute goodness to the world,
creating more life, more joy, more love.”

People: Praise be to God, the Creator of all that is!

OFFERATORY

“Be Thou My Vision”
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Sharon C. Foxwell

LIFTING THE SPIRIT

*CLOSING HYMN 291

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

SPIRIT

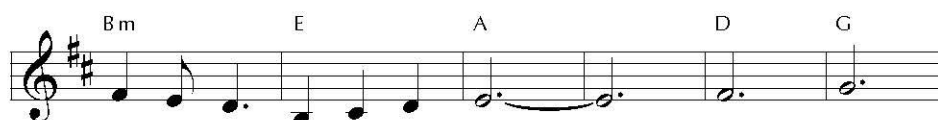
291 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Spirit

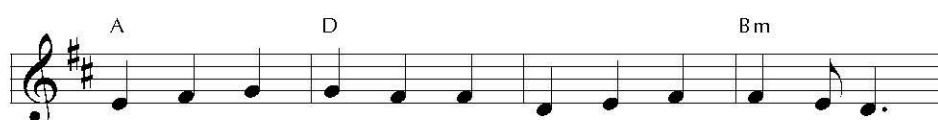
Refrain



Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the



wil - der - ness, call - ing and free. Spir - it,



spir - it of rest - less - ness, stir me from plac - id - ness,



wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters; you called to the
- 2 You swept through the des - ert; you stung with the
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble; you cried from a
- 4 You call from to - mor - row; you break an - cient



deep; then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the
 sand; and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a
 hill; then you whis - pered in si - lence when the
 schemes; from the bond - age of sor - row the

As the author/composer reminds us in the refrain, the Spirit is both gentle and restless. The stanzas reinforce a sense of the Spirit's activity through a wide range of verbs, initially in the past tense; but they become more urgent in the present tense of the fourth stanza.

val - leys of sleep; and o - ver the e -
law and a land. When they were con - found -
whole world was still. And down in the cit -
cap - tives dream dreams. Our wom - en see vi -

ons you called to each thing, "A -
ed with i - dols and lies, then you
y, you called once a - gain when you
sions; our men clear their eyes. With

wake from your slum - bers and
spoke through your proph - ets to
blew through your peo - ple on the
bold new de - ci - sions your

rise on your wings."
o - pen their eyes.
rush of the wind.
peo - ple a - rise.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

arr. Barry Braman

Linda Dover, organist

*Stand in body or spirit

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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