



Service of Worship September 6 , 2026 9:30am
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

GATHERING THE SUPPLIES

PRELUDE

"Simple Gifts"
Ken Werne, dulcimer

Traditional

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: Everything that is created is in relationship with all other things. God's vision for birds had to do with the quality of the creation of air. How a song is experienced by those who sing it will change the composer's perception of the song or even the song itself. Nothing exists in isolation. So too for our relationships with others. What happens for humanity is closely related to how we respond to each other. Are we willing to re-integrate, re-vise, re-vision our lives as we come in contact with others who are not like us? New possibilities await if we are willing to offer ourselves fully and be willing to be changed by our interactions.

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Leader: Let us pray together:

**Re-integrating God,
you created us for relationship with you and others.
Open us to be changed as we encounter the diversity of your children.
Draw us into your love.
Give us the courage to reach out in love.
Amen.**

* HYMN 401

"Gather Us In"

GATHER US IN

Here in This Place

401

Gather Us In

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,
 van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;
 brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.
 Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and
 blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,
 we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

CALL TO CONFESSION

What contributes to dis-integration of the world rather than re-integration of all things into beloved and supportive community? Theologian Don Saliers says of creativity, "...holy play asks of us vulnerability to grace and to one another." Sometimes fear of making ourselves vulnerable keeps us isolated, unforgiving and without the playmates we need to create the love the world so desperately needs.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, you have created us to belong to one another, forming us as one body with many members. Yet we confess that we have too often contributed to the brokenness and dis-integration of your world. Fear keeps us guarded. Pride keeps us from admitting our need for one another. Hurt keeps us distant, and resentment keeps us from forgiveness.

We separate ourselves from those who are different from us and forget that we were created to need one another. Forgive us, O God. Make us vulnerable to your grace and to one another. Break down the walls that divide us and draw us again into beloved community. Gather what has been scattered, restore what has been broken, and make us one body in Christ, that together we may embody the love the world so desperately needs. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the Good News! We were made for each other, we were made for relationship, we have only to choose to say "yes" to God's invitation to participate fully in the life and love of community.

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"

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

"LET THERE BE..."

AN IMAGINATIVE WORD

"Eat Inspiration Like Dinner"

by Renhui Moon

Everyone eats inspiration like a fancy dinner
What's in it that makes it so much desired?
Is it the unusual ingredients it contains
Or the soaring power it promises?
Is it the trendy colors it possesses
Or the music it orchestrates inside us?
Is it the delicious taste it offers
Or the harmony when we are aligned?
It is both and all
We are created to create
And must be inspired!

ANTHEM

"Lord, Here Am I"

John Ness Beck

Chancel Choir
Linda Dover, accompanist

*Master, Thou callest, I gladly obey;
Only direct me, and I'll find Thy way.
Teach me the mission appointed for me,
What is my labor, and where it shall be.*

*Master, Thou callest, and this I reply,
"Ready and willing,
Lord, here am I."*

*Willing, my Savior, to take up the cross;
Willing to suffer reproaches and loss.
Willing to follow, if Thou wilt but lead;
Only support me with grace in my need.*

*Master, Thou callest, and this I reply,
"Ready and willing,
Lord, here am I."*

*Living, or dying, I still would be Thine;
Yet I am mortal while Thou art divine.
Pardon, whenever I turn from the right;
Pity, and bring me again to the light.*

*Master, Thou callest, and this I reply,
"Ready and willing,
Lord, here am I."*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 12:12–19

Keith Langabee

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be?"

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Drawn In: Re-Integrate"

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

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!

OFFERTORY

"Take My Life"

arr. Kurt Kaiser

Chancel Choir

Linda Dover, accompanist

Offertory Donated in Memory of Mary Ann Wilson

*Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.*

*Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.*

*Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose.*

*Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own;*

*It shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.*

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving 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.

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Music During Communion

"Ash Grove"
Ken Werne, dulcimer

TRADITIONAL

Prayer after Communion

LIFTING THE SPIRIT

*CLOSING HYMN 733

"We All Are One in Mission"

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

733 We All Are One in Mission

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
 2 We all are called for ser - vice to wit - ness in God's name.
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent; our pur - pose is the same:
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing word.

A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so ev - ery folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

A Lutheran pastor wrote this text in response to a bishop's letter that said, "Our mission is to touch the lives of others with Christ's love." This theme is made stronger by recognizing that shared purposes do not require the denial of diversity but are enriched by it.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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