



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

GATHERING THE SUPPLIES

SONG TO GATHER

"Create In Me"
Praise Team/All

by Rend Collective

**create in me a clean, clean heart.
Create in me a work of art.
Create in me a miracle:
Something real, and something beautiful. (3x)**

You're not finished with me yet. You're not finished with me yet.
By your power, I can change, I can change, 'cause you're not finished with me yet.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

*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: All of creation began with the dream of God, ... What you create out of that answer is your greatest gift to the world and the way in which you are part of God's unfolding and ongoing creative dream!

Leader: In the world of the driven

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

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For the sake of the livin'

Let us be drawn in

**Creating God, you called forth all that exists in a moment of divine brilliance.
Open us again to that spark which you ignited in each of us at our creation so
that we might generate more life-giving energy in this world. Draw us into your
story of hope. Give us the courage to dream. Amen.**

*SONG TO PRAISE

"Start a Fire"

by Seth Mosley, Cad Mattson
& Jonathan Lowry

All

This world can be cold and bitter, feels like we're in the dead of winter.

Waiting on something better, but am I really gonna hide forever?

Over and over again, I hear your voice in my head:

"Let your light shine, let your light shine for all to see."

Start a fire in my soul, fan the flame and make it grow

So there's no doubt or denying.

Let it burn so brightly that ev'ryone around can see

That it's you, that it's you that we need.

Start a fire in me.

You only need a spark to start a whole blaze,

It only takes a little faith.

Let it start right here in this city,

so these old walls will never be the same.

Over and over again, I hear your voice in my head:

"Let your light shine, let your light shine for all to see."

Start a fire in my soul, fan the flame and make it grow

So there's no doubt or denying.

Let it burn so brightly that ev'ryone around can see

That it's you, that it's you that we need.

Start a fire in me.

You are the fire, you are the flame, you are the light on the darkest day.

We have the hope, we bear your name.

We carry the news that you have come to save.

Only you can save.

Start a fire in my soul, fan the flame and make it grow

So there's no doubt or denying.

Let it burn so brightly that ev'ryone around can see

That it's you, that it's you that we need.

Start a fire in me.

You are the fire, you are the flame, you are the light on the darkest day.

Start a fire in me.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Emily Nelson Dixon

What holds us back from the joy of our creativity? Social activist Dorothy Day said, "God is our Creator. God made us in God's image and likeness. Therefore we are creators ... The joy of creativeness should be ours." Sometimes what holds us back is not believing that we ARE a child of God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, You formed us in your image and breathed your Spirit into us, yet we confess that we often doubt the gifts you have given us. We have believed the lie that creativity belongs only to a talented few. We have hidden our gifts out of fear, comparison, or self-doubt. We have forgotten that what we make, build, nurture, repair, imagine, or share has value in your kingdom.

Forgive us for overlooking the ways your creative Spirit works through acts of love, beauty, justice, hospitality, and care. Awaken in us the courage to trust the gifts you have given. Help us create with joy, generosity, and gratitude. Shape our lives into works of love that reveal your grace to the world. In the name of Christ, who makes all things new. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the Good News! Know that you are creative simply because you were created by God! Each one of us is fearfully and wonderfully made!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(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.)

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

"There Is a Vitality"

by Martha Graham

"There is a vitality, a life-force,
an energy, a quickening
that is translated through you into action.
And because there is only one of you in all of time,
this expression is unique.
And if you block it... the world will not have it.
It is not your business to determine how good it is
nor how valuable nor how it compares with other expressions.
It is your business to keep it yours clearly and directly,
to keep the channel open...
whether you choose to take an art class,
keep a journal,
record your dreams,
dance your story
or live each day from your own creative source.
Above all else, keep the channel open!"

SONG TO REFLECT

"To All the Poets" by Gloria Gaither & Andrew Peterson

Carrie DeVries, Stephen Wing, & Miles McDonald

*To all the poets I have known
Who saw the beauty in the common place
Saw incarnation in a baby's face
And in a drop of rain, the stars.
When there was mud and blood and tears,
You sang a song at night to calm our fears,
You made a moment last a thousand years
You are the poets I have known.*

*To all the poets I have known
You built a kingdom out of sea and sand,
You conquered armies with a marching band.
You carved a galaxy in stone.
You built an altar out of bread,
You spent your soul to see the children fed,
You wove your heart in every story read,
Thank God for poets I have known.*

*You keep on dreaming after dreams all fade
When friends desert you are the ones who stayed,
To write the prayers when every prayer's been prayed.*

*You are the poets I have known
You turned your tears into a string of pearls
You held your sorrow high to light the world
When I thought I was alone.
In everyone you saw the child
The hidden heart the dark could not destroy
Slipped past the dragons with a tale of joy
Thank God for poets I have known.*

*You walking wounded of my life
Who bled compassion in the heat of strife,
Who stood between my heart and Satan's knife,
With just the armor of a song.
You are the heroes and the brave
Who with a slender pen our passions save,
And chisel epitaphs upon the grave
Of all the poets I have known.*

*Keep on dreaming after dreams all fade,
When friends desert, be the ones who stay
To write the prayers when ev'ry prayer's been prayed
To be the poets we will know.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 4:13–21

Joy Slayton

“Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him spread throughout the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath, he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners, and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor. He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. He began to explain to them, ‘Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it.’”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Drawn In: Dream”

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!

SONG FOR GIVING

“Make Me Like You”

by Mark Busbee

All

With mercy you’ve shown me your unfailing love.

Your holiness purges my sin.

Your blood has redeemed me, I’m washed in your grace,

With patience you cleanse me within.

Make me like you, take the pieces of my life and make it new.

Make me like you. Make me wholly, completely brand new.

To love the unloved ones, to count all but loss,

I take up my cross for you.

To picture you broken, to see you as king,

For you anything I will do.

Make me like you, take the pieces of my life and make it new.

Make me like you. Make me wholly, completely brand new.

LIFTING THE SPIRIT

*SONG TO SEND

“Old Church Choir”

by Colby Wedgeworth

All

Ethan Hulse & Zach Williams

There's revival and it's spreading like a wildfire in my heart.

A Sunday morning "hallelujah", and it's lasting all week long.

Can you hear it? Can you feel it? It's the rhythm of a gospel song.

Once you choose it, you can't lose it.

There ain't nothing, there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy!

I've got an old church choir singing in my soul.

I've got a sweet salvation and it's beautiful.

I've got a heart overflowing 'cause I've been restored.

**No, there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy.
No there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy!**

**When the valleys that I wander turn to mountains that I can't climb,
You are with me, you never leave me
'cause there ain't nothing, there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy!**

**I've got an old church choir singing in my soul.
I've got a sweet salvation and it's beautiful.
I've got a heart overflowing 'cause I've been restored.
No, there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy.
No there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy!**

**Clap your hands and stomp your feet 'till you find that gospel beat,
'cause he's all you'll ever need, all you'll ever need. (Repeat)**

**I've got an old church choir singing in my soul.
I've got a sweet salvation and it's beautiful.
I've got a heart overflowing 'cause I've been restored.
No, there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy.
No there ain't nothing gonna steal my joy!**

**Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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