



CONNECTING IN CHRIST
TRANSFORMING LIVES

WELCOME!

God welcomes all people
and so do we.

We are glad you are here!
Please enter quietly and be
seated as we prepare our
hearts for worship.

Masks are required for
everyone on Sunday mornings
at all times and in all parts of
the building. Masks are
available if you need one.

Our nursery is available for
children 6 and under.
Families with young children
may choose to sit together in
the designated family pews
located near the piano.

After worship, we invite you to
join us in the Gathering Area
or step outside for a time to
greet one another.
Refreshments served.

This morning's service is being
broadcast live on our website
and Facebook page.

Where noted *
please rise in body or in spirit.

WORSHIP ON THE LORD'S DAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2021

Prelude | *Prelude and Fugue in A Minor, BWV 559* —J.S. Bach

Welcome & Announcements

WE GATHER IN THE LORD'S NAME

Introit | *Lost in the Night* —arr. Cathy Moglebust

*Lost in the night doth the heathen yet languish,
Longing for morning the darkness to vanquish,
Plaintively heaving a sigh full of anguish:
Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?*

*Must he be vainly awaiting the morrow?
Shall we who have it no light let him borrow?
Giving no heed to his burden of sorrow:
Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?*

*Sorrowing brother, in darkness yet dwelling,
Dawned hath the day of radiance excelling,
Death's dreaded darkness forever dispelling:
Christ is coming soon! Christ is coming soon!*

*Light o'er the land of the heathen is beaming,
Rivers of life through its deserts are streaming,
Millions yet sigh for the Savior redeeming:
Come and save us soon! Come and save us soon!*

—Finnish song; tr. Olav Lee, 1929

***Call to Worship** —Eph. 3:19

**All: God created all things visible and invisible; none other.
God provides food for your stomach and spirit; none other.
God is able to accomplish abundantly
far more than all we can ask or imagine.
Let us worship the Trinity, and none other.**

***Hymn** | #305 "Come Sing, O Church, In Joy!"

**1 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!**

*Refrain: In bold accord, come celebrate the journey
now and praise the Lord!*

**2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,
empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream! —Refrain**

**3 Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,
as we in mission magnify the Crucified! —Refrain**

**4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long! —Refrain**

Confession & Assurance of Pardon

One: If God is for us, who can be against us?

Let us confess our sins to the One who searches us and knows us.

All: We confess that we have turned away from you and have not lived with upright hearts. Forgive us for failing to follow you. Guide our feet to walk in your ways and serve your world to the glory of your name. Amen.

One: Our sins are forgiven; be at peace, for all things work together for good for those who love God. Amen.

All: Enlightening God, the unfolding of your Word gives light and provides wisdom to all who seek your truth. Open our minds and hearts by the presence of your Holy Spirit, that the mystery of your heavenly realm is made evident here on earth. Amen.

Passing the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you. **All: And also with you.**

Worshipping with our Children

Special Music | *Ring to the Lord a New Song* —Cathy Moglebust

WE PROCLAIM AND HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

All: Spirit of God, may your Word be as rain falling from heaven, soaking dry soil until it sprouts and springs forth, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, through Christ—living Water, living Word. Amen.

First Reading | Psalm 1:1-3

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading | Luke 8:4-8

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon | Rev. Cader Howard

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

***Hymn | #301 “Let Us Build a House”**

- 1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

- 2 Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God’s children dare to seek to dream God’s reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God’s grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: —*Refrain***
- 3 Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: —*Refrain***
- 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they’ve known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: —*Refrain***
- 5 Let us build a house where all are named their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: —*Refrain***

***Affirmation of Faith | from a Declaration of Faith**

All: The Spirit came with power to the followers of Jesus. Led by the apostles
they began to proclaim with boldness the new thing God had done in Christ.
They began to experience in their fellowship a new quality of common life.

We believe that by the power of the same Spirit the church can be set on its way again,
even when it seems beyond hope of renewal.

We are grateful heirs of reformations and awakenings.

We are faithful to the reformers of the past when we hold ourselves open in the present
to the reforming and renewing work of the Spirit.

Our Response to God’s Generosity

Offertory | Allegretto from Six Variations on a Ground Bass —Margaret Sandresky

Prayers of the People | The Lord’s Prayer

All: 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.

WE GO INTO THE WORLD TO SERVE

***Closing Hymn | #712 “As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought”**

- 1 As those of old their firstfruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield, so we today our firstfruits bring, the wealth of this good land: of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.**
- 2 A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give, to make our life an offering that all may truly live. The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true: a world redeemed by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.**
- 3 In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today, to serve your cause and share your love with all along life’s way. O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son, help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

***Charge and Benediction**

Handbell Amen

***Postlude | Toccata —Douglas E. Wagner**

The Postlude leads us into the world in mission and service. You are invited to leave the sanctuary joyfully or to stay and listen—it’s your choice. Please be respectful of those who need to exit the pews and those who remain to listen.

TODAY’S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Preacher—The Rev. Cader Howard

Organist—Dr. Laura Edman

Liturgist—Julie James

Bells of the Valley Handbells Director—Carol Trombley

Ushers—Louie Winslow, Margaret Irwin, Jim Kocian

Audio Visual Technicians—Isaac Howard, Peter Bachman

Welcomers—Bill & Mary Baker

Gathering Host—Marjorie Williams

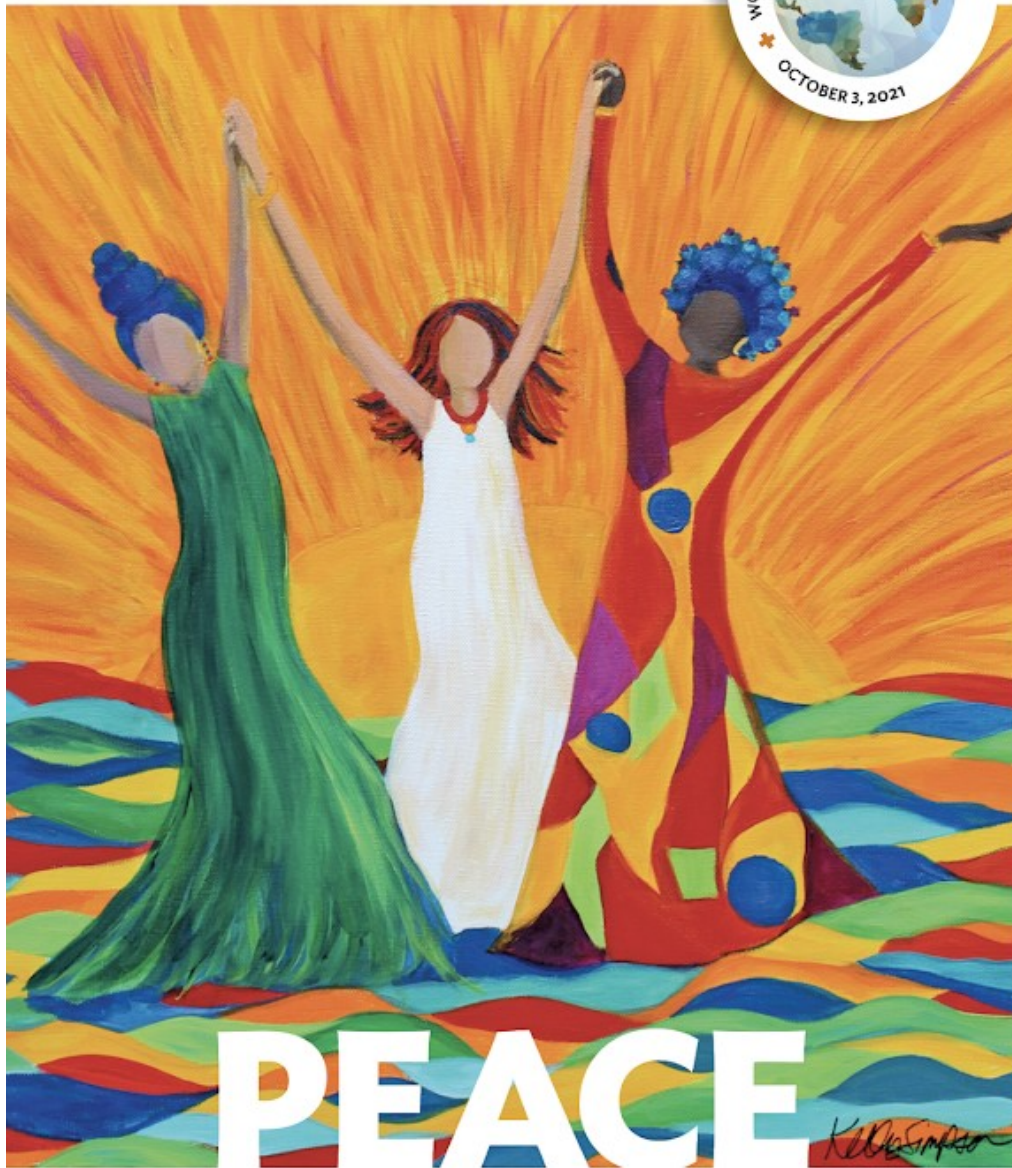
Hospitality—Brian & Jane Luke, Martha Sanford

Special Thanks—To the Bells of the Valley Handbells for their offerings of music at our worship today.

Today’s Flowers—Provided by Jane & Brian Luke in memory of Katie.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



at all times in all ways.

— 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONNECTING IN CHRIST TRANSFORMING LIVES

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