

**Sunday, October 10, 2021**

*An asterisk \* invites you to stand  
in body or in spirit.*

*You are welcome to sing during  
worship if you are vaccinated!*



## Gathering in God's Presence

**Prelude — “Be Thou My Vision”**

Setting by Jason W. Krug  
Handbell Quartet

### Welcome

#### \*Call to Worship

One: May we remember

**All: That God created.**

One: May we remember

**All: That God liberated.**

One: May we remember

**All: That God fed.**

One: May we remember

**All: That God is still creating,**

**God is still liberating,**

**And God is still feeding us.**

One: Let this be our story.

**All: Let this be where we begin.**

One: Let us worship holy God.

\*Gathering Liturgy — from *Now the Feast and Celebration, page 3*

“Kyrie” and “Now the Feast”

### \*Prayer of Confession

Holy God,  
**We admit to remembering the wrong things.**  
**We remember worldly lessons like,**  
“Everyone for themselves,”  
“An eye for an eye,” and  
“All is fair in love and war.”

**And yet, we forget to forgive seventy times seven,**  
**To love our neighbors as ourselves,**  
**And to live like the body of Christ.**

**Why is it so hard to remember the right things?**

**Release us from our muscle memory and**  
**Re-center us in a new place,**  
**A fresh place,**  
**A space grounded in your love.**

**Help us to receive your word anew,**  
**And to consider stewardship not with the**  
**world's rules,**  
**But with your rules.**  
**Help us remember.**

**With hope we pray, amen.**

### \*Prayer for Illumination

Holy God,  
There is something about scripture that stirs us awake.  
For when we hear of a deep love that made room for everyone at the table,  
We remember that we are hungry.  
And when we hear of manna raining down in the desert,  
We remember that we are lost.  
There is something about scripture that stirs us awake,  
And it feels like hunger and it looks like hope.  
So stir us awake, oh God.  
Remind us that this story starts with love and ends with love.  
We are hungry, which is to say, we are listening. **Amen.**

### \*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Hearing & Responding to Scripture

### A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

6Seek the Lord and live,  
or he will break out against the house of  
Joseph like fire,  
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to  
quench it.  
7Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,  
and bring righteousness to the ground!

10They hate the one who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.  
11Therefore because you trample on the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,

but you shall not drink their wine.

12For I know how many are your transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the gate.  
13Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such  
a time;  
for it is an evil time.

14Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.  
15Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 90:12-17 — spoken responsively by verse**

12So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

**13Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?**  
**Be gracious to your servants.**

14Satisfy us by your steadfast love | in the morning;  
so shall we rejoice and be glad | all our days.

**15Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us**  
**and as many years as we suffered adversity.**

16Show your servants your works,  
and your splendor | to their children.

**17May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;**  
**prosper the work of our hands; prosper | per our handiwork.**

**A Reading from the Epistles — Hebrews 4:12-16**

12Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

14Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. 15For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. 16Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

## \*Gospel — Mark 10:17-31

The Gospel of Mark, the 10th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

17As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 18Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. 19You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” 20He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” 21Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” 22When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

23Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” 24And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” 26They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” 27Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

28Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” 29Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, 30who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. 31But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon — “Connecting Wealth with a Caring Heart”

Pastor Bill Nelsen

## \*Hymn — no. 1036, from *All Creation Sings*

“Commonwealth is God’s Commandment”



1 Com - mon - wealth is God’s com - mand - ment; com - mon goods are meant to share.  
2 Shar - ing lav - ish gifts and bless - ings, love that not one mite with-holds,  
3 Gen - ders, rac - es, tribes, and na - tions, hear the Ho - ly One who calls,



Ta - bles set and doors wide o - pen wel-come an - gels un - a - ware.  
stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man - y folds.  
bid - ding all to work to - geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.



*Refrain*

Plead for the peace of all cre - a - tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan - ti, pax, sha - lam, mas - la - ha: com - mon good is ho - ly ground.

Shanti is the word for “peace” in Hindu and Buddhist traditions; pax is Latin for “peace”; shalom is Hebrew and has a complicated definition, which can loosely be condensed to “an inward sense of completeness or wholeness”; and Maslaha is a concept in Islamic law connoting the “common good.” We are invited into a countercultural idea of a commonwealth where no one has too much and where we work together to make sure that everyone has “common goods”—food, housing, clothing, and community support.

## **\*Affirmation of Faith — Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **\*Prayers of Intercession**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and more. God of mercy, **hear us as we pray.**

Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. Increase the produce of the land and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Provide for good working conditions and keep them safe. God of mercy, **hear us as we pray.**

Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Open the hearts of local, national, and world leaders to show such compassion and love for their neighbors. God of mercy, **hear us as we pray.**

Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live. Sustain ministries that offer food, clothing, and peace of mind. God of mercy, **hear us as we pray.**

Renewing God, you bring life out of death. Help us part with those things that are no longer beneficial to us and open our hearts to see where new life is budding in this congregation. God of mercy, **hear us as we pray.**

Eternal God, we thank you for the lives of those who have died. Make us confident in your promise of salvation and support us in our own journey of faith. God of mercy, **hear us as we pray.**

Receive these and all our prayers, Gracious God. We pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit the prayer that Christ taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Offering

*Please leave an offering in the basket outside the sanctuary, mail a check to the office, or give online: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283020>.*

# Departing to Serve God's World

## Announcements

\***Sending Hymn** — no. 583

"Take My Life, that I May Be"

\***Blessing**

May the God of our faithful worship go with you,  
may we look to Christ as our teacher of true stewardship,  
and may the Spirit guide us to generously give  
what each of us has to offer in this time and place. Amen.

\***Benediction Liturgy** — from *Now the Feast and Celebration*, page 15      "May God Bless and Keep Us"

\***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Worship faithfully; give generously. **Thanks be to God!**

\***Postlude** — "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Setting by Anne Marie David

## Acknowledgements

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## Worship Assistants

Interim Pastor: Bill Nelsen  
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat  
Audio/Video:

Greeter: Paul Aasen  
Reader: David Marlow  
Ushers: Steve Erickson & Brett Peterson

## Announcements

### **Stewardship Emphasis**

We ask all our members to continue to prayerfully consider how they can help our special congregation in the coming months and the year ahead by:

- Returning your Estimate of Giving cards before October 24.
- Filling out your Time and Talent surveys, either online or in written form (and returning them to the Church Office). If you have questions about volunteering and completing the survey, contact the office. Help to raise the numbers on the Giving Thermometer and the Time and Talent Clock!!

### **Other Announcements**

- Donations of used Smartphones are still needed to record services. Help us to continue to improve the quality of recorded worship services for those who cannot attend in person.
- Altar flowers are given by John and Sharon Malm in memory of Sharon's mother Naoma Berkeland who would have been 115 years old on October 6th .
- Please join us after services outdoors for refreshments and fellowship.
- The office will be closed on Tuesday, October 12.
- Kwik Trip cards can be purchased in the office this morning.

### **Prayers**

We pray for the family of Marion Peterson who passed away on Tuesday.

We pray for our teachers, professors, and students as they continue to adjust to new learning challenges.

We pray for those impacted by Covid-19, including Dick and Joann Muesing.

We pray for Betty Thompson's sister Nancy Maag who is recovering from surgery.

We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Gwen Weldon, Tom and Deb Johnson, Tom Michels, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Glen Stryker, and Ursula McRostie, and for all those families continuing to adjust to the loss of loved ones, including the families of Tom Stenson, Mary Lee Denley, and Bob Eisenberg.