

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 7, 2024



*The Siege and Destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans
Under the Command of Titus, A.D. 70 by David Roberts, 1850*

We Gather in Response to God's Invitation

THE GIFT OF MUSIC TO GATHER US

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AFFIRMATION OF MISSION:

We declare ourselves to be a Christ-centered Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming persons into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identities and expressions, ability, culture, economic status, ethnicity, or family composition.

We recognize that there are differences among us, but believe that we can love alike even though we may not think alike. We proclaim this covenant of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in church and society. We invite all people to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

**An asterisk indicates when the people stand in body or spirit. Bolded text indicates when the people speak.*

One: Great is the Holy One who sits sovereign and near!

All: **The earth rejoices on the holy mountain, at the heights and depths of God's love.**

We gather, we observe, we recognize, we ponder the wonders of Creator's majesty!

God's name, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.

The mighty deeds of power astound and amaze. We remember and recount from generation to generation!

Our Guide reigns forever and ever. Praise our God

*OPENING PRAYER (TOGETHER)

Powerful One, we come into this gathering humbled by your presence among us, grateful for the companionship of your people, and eager to worship your name. As we tell your story anew, we enter your story as the objects of your attention, love, and care. May we know you more deeply and clearly. May we be transformed and transfixed by the mystery of you. May we be inspired by your deeds of power to be instruments of your reign in the world. Empower us, O Holy One. Amen.

*SINGING TOGETHER:

"God's Grace"

Sing! #29

We're standing in your light, O God. Your glory in the midst of us.

You call us to this sacred space, to live within your grace.

Refrain: **God's grace, God's grace, the hope by which we are fed.**

God's grace, God's grace, with joy may our hearts be led.

You strengthen us through fear and doubt, to heal our lives as we reach out.

To welcome to this sacred space, all those who long for grace. (refrain)

Our gifts from you we share with all, to justice work so we are called.

You send us from this sacred space, so all may know your grace. (refrain)

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(As a sign of our deep fellowship and communion with God and with one another, let us greet one another with a handshake or peace sign and bless one another with the peace that comes from being in Christ.)

Jesus sends us out with the power to bless others with his peace.

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

We Listen for God's Word

SELECTIONS BY THE SPRING GROVE ALUMNI CHORUS

Director: Mr. Lee H. Sands; Accompanists: Jennifer Noel and Karen Wire

Come into His Presence unknown

Honor And Glory J. S. Bach, 1685-1750 arr. & ed. Walter Ehret

Hallelujah, Amen, G. F. Handel, 1685-1759, edited Carl Deis

from "Judas Maccabaeus"
Holy, Holy, Holy F. Schubert, 1797-1828 arr. Patrick M. Liebergen

Sing Praises L. S. Glarum, 1908-1976

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of truth, open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts with your wisdom and revelation. Help us to hear your voice, to see your ways, and to receive with joy your truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING

PSALM 48

This psalm celebrates the glory and strength of God. Our responsive reading begins.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God.

His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.

Within its citadels God has shown himself a sure defense.

Then the kings assembled; they came on together.

As soon as they saw it, they were astounded; they were in panic; they took to flight;

trembling took hold of them there, pains as of a woman in labor, as when an east wind shatters the ships of Tarshish.

As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God, which God establishes forever. Selah.

We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.

Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.

Your right hand is filled with victory.

Let Mount Zion be glad; let the towns of Judah rejoice because of your judgments.

Walk about Zion; go all around it; count its towers; consider well its ramparts;
go through its citadels, that you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever. **He will be our guide forever.**

The rejection of Jesus at Nazareth and the mission of the twelve. Hear the Good News.

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ² On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴ Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown and among their own kin and in their own house." ⁵ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷ He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff: no bread, no bag, no money in their belts, ⁹ but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹ If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

May these words of scripture speak life into your spirit.

Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION:

"Seeing God's Reign"

Pastor Dave

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There's Something About that Name

Gloria & William Gaither, b.1936

with "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

Let the Saints Get Up and Sing!

Traditional Spirituals arr. J. Raney, b. 1956

We Respond to God's Word

A TIME FOR PRAYER

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

You are invited to share joys and concerns we can pray for together. Let our sharing itself be an act of prayer.

PRAYERS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You are invited to place your gifts in the offering basket as you arrive or depart from our worship together.

(Along with your regular offering you are invited to make an offering to the Our Daily Blessings food pantry by putting your loose change and crinkly cash in a can. With your change we can "make a joyful noise to the Lord"!)

In 1 Corinthians 12:9, Paul writes, "but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me." Generosity does not measure the resources we have. Rather, it notes the capacity we have to give from the abundance we have received and the trust we place in God's generosity to renew the gifts we bring. May we give generously to meet the needs that confront our community and to demonstrate the power of our collective faithfulness.

DEDICATING OUR OFFERING (TOGETHER)

Creator, all we have emanates from you and your creation. Receive these gifts we give with thanksgiving and hope for a shared future without lack, disparities, and unmet needs. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

*SINGING TOGETHER

"SEND ME"

SING! 202

The scriptures say God knows us all by name.

Don't be afraid when the Spirit calls.

There's a whisper now, listen way deep down

once we hear it then every bush is ablaze!

God is listening hoping we'll respond hoping we will say:

Chorus: Yes God, I'll go where you lead me.

I hear your Spirit calling my name.

As long as I know you're with me,

I know you'll give me the grace that I need.

So here I am, send me Holy One. Here I am, send me Holy One.

Here I am, send me Holy One.

Here I am, send me. Here I am send me.

So many needs, I see the people's pain.

O God, send me. I will share your love.

I will feed your sheep, comfort those who weep.

I will work for your justice and for your peace.

When I make mistakes, wash me with your grace, then again I'll say: (chorus)

*GOOD WORDS FOR GOING FORTH

May the power of God increase to saturate you.

May the power of God ignite a new vision in you.

May the power of God inspire you to follow the way of Jesus in the world.

God in peace and in power to love God and neighbor. Amen.

*CHORAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE

GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN

J. RANKEN & W. G. TOMER, 1833-1896ARR. H. SORENSON

TAKE WITH YOU GOD'S GIFT OF MUSIC

WE RETURN TO THE WORLD

RENEWED AND EMPOWERED BY GOD'S SPIRIT

As our worship ends, our service begins.

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Much of this morning's liturgy is adapted from Deeds of Power: Service Prayers for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Year B was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.