

18th Sunday After Pentecost – September 26, 2021 – 10:00 AM

Cherie Brooks – Director of Music Katie Wynkoop – Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music
Jim Hamilton – Liturgist Erin Wise – Director of Children’s & Youth Ministries
The Chancel Choir Jim Eder – Vocalist Brian Biller – Media Production Specialist
Rev. Dr. Rick Nutt--Guest Preacher Rev. Joel A. Esala – Pastor

Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God’s love with all.

Prelude “To God Be the Glory” arranged by Jason Krug
Covenant Handbell Ensemble: Nan Davidson, Director; Linda Gabel; Lynn
Turney; Robin Hooks; Laura Hooks; Jenny Watson

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayer Requests

Introit “This Little Light of Mine” Candle

*Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Let us give thanks to the Lord with whole hearts.
People: Glory be to the One whose wonders are to be remembered.
Leader: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.
People: The Lord feeds the righteous with truth.
Leader: Come! Let us give thanks to God.

Hymn #20 “All Things Bright and Beautiful” Ribbon

Refrain:
All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors;
God made their tiny wings. [Refrain]

2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky: [Refrain]

3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,

God made them every one. [Refrain]

4 God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well. [Refrain]

Prayer of Confession

Cross

Holy and all-powerful God, who commands all spirits, comforts those in distress, and casts out destructive forces, we confess that we are unable to do your will. We protect what is familiar and reject what is unknown. We admire those with courage but excuse ourselves when we falter from the truth. We forget that you are always with us, and that with you all things are possible. Forgive us, lead us, make us new; in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, Mother of us all. Amen.

(Silence for Personal Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Hymn #447 "We Are Forgiven"

Ribbon

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer for Illumination

Cross

The First Reading--1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (CEB)

Notepad

Now concerning meat that has been sacrificed to a false god: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes people arrogant, but love builds people up. 2 If anyone thinks they know something, they don't yet know as much as they should know. 3 But if someone loves God, then they are known by God.

4 So concerning the actual food involved in these sacrifices to false gods, we know that a false god isn't anything in this world, and that there is no God except for the one God. 5 Granted, there are so-called "gods," in heaven and on the earth, as there are many gods and many lords. 6 However, for us believers,

There is one God the Father.

All things come from him, and we belong to him.

And there is one Lord Jesus Christ.

All things exist through him, and we live through him.

7 But not everybody knows this. Some are eating this food as though it really is food sacrificed to a real idol, because they were used to idol worship until now. Their conscience is weak because it has been damaged. 8 Food won't bring us close to God. We're not missing out if we don't eat, and we don't have any advantage if we do eat. 9 But watch out or else this freedom of yours might be a problem for those who are weak. 10 Suppose someone sees you (the person who has knowledge) eating in an idol's temple. Won't the person with a weak conscience be encouraged to eat the meat sacrificed to false gods? 11 The weak brother or sister for whom Christ died is destroyed by your knowledge. 12 You sin against Christ if you sin against your brothers and sisters and hurt their weak consciences this way. 13 This is why, if food causes the downfall of my brother or sister, I won't eat meat ever again, or else I may cause my brother or sister to fall.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Talk With Children

Erin Wise

Hymn #188

1 Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

[As the children return to their seats, we sing:]

2 Jesus loves me! This I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me." [Refrain]

The Gospel Reading—Mark 1:21-28 (CEB)

Notepad

21 Jesus and his followers went into Capernaum. Immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and started teaching. 22 The people were amazed by his teaching, for he was teaching them with authority, not like the legal experts. 23 Suddenly, there in the synagogue, a person with an evil spirit screamed, 24 "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one from God."

25 "Silence!" Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. "Come out of him!" 26 The unclean spirit shook him and screamed, then it came out.

27 Everyone was shaken and questioned among themselves, "What's this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands unclean spirits and they obey him!" 28 Right away the news about him spread throughout the entire region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon	"The Responsible Self"	Rev. Dr. Rick Nutt	Notepad
"Kyrie" by Cathy Mocklebust			Campanile Bell Choir
Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer			Labyrinth
Invitation to the Offering			
Offering			Notepad
Text Giving			
Give Plus Church App			
Offertory	"My Good Lord's Done Been Here" arranged by Rollo Dilworth		Jim Eder
*Hymn #606	"The Doxology"		Ribbon
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.			
Prayer of Dedication			Cross
Hymn #366	"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"		Ribbon

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Postlude Reprise of "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Portions of today's liturgy were reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion. Copyright 2014.