

Sunday, September 17th, 2023
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“O Sing Unto the Lord” by Hans Leo Hassler

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Call to Worship

Sing and rejoice! God reaches out to you with healing love!

God is our strength and our power!

Dance before God, a dance of joy and hope!

God brings us joy and lifts us up in hope.

Come, let us worship God who is always with us.

Let us celebrate the good news God brings to us each day. Amen.

***Hymn**

“God Is Truly with Us”

New Century Hymnal #68

Contributors: Gerhard Tersteegen, 1929; trans: Frederick W Foster and others, alt. © public domain.

Prayer for Illumination

God of all seasons, as we near the Solstice we recognize the balance shifting in the world. We move from summer to autumn in the north, and from winter into spring in the south. As the earth is blanketed with greenery and flowers in spring, moving north into the golds and crimsons and oranges of autumn, may we be awakened to the new things You are doing all around us. May we take a moment to appreciate the earth, now, and how You bring all things in due season. May we turn back from practices that cause harm to the earth, that raise temperatures, that pollute our waterways and landscapes. May we be reminded of the power to call upon our elected officials to change our ways. May we remember that in this season, now is the time when we can do something to help Your beautiful earth, our only home, so that no season is too hot or too cold, too dry or too wet, but that all of creation would be in the balance You set and intended from the beginning of the world. In Your name, Great Creator, we pray. Amen.

Anthem

“Fill-a-me Up” by Pepper Choplin

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Scripture

Psalm 103

Jane Storrs

***Hymn**

“There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy”

New Century Hymnal #23

Contributors: Frederick William Faber, 1854 © public domain

During the hymn, children and youth are welcome to leave for Sunday School over in the Friendship Hall

Sermon

Bless God!

Rev. Abby Gackenheimer

Music of Reflection

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

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.

Prayer Response

“Hear Us, O Lord” by Thomas Atwood

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Call to Offering

Offertory

****Doxology Pilgrim Hymnal #515 *[alternative words]***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him [God], all creatures here below

Praise Him [God] above, ye heavenly host

Praise Father [Creator], Son [Christ], and Holy Ghost. Amen

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Call to Offering

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

God, receive these gifts - and give us open hands. Fill our lives – and give us open hearts. Touch us with your word – and give us open minds. Bless this church – and give us open doors. Amen.

*Hymn

“For the Fruits of All Creation”

New Century Hymnal #425

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Benediction

Benediction Response *“Forth In the Name of Christ We Go”* by Henrich Schutz

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Postlude

Liturgy:

Call to Worship: adapted from Nancy C Townsley <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/8408/worship-connection-september-17-2023> Prayer of Illumination: <http://rev-o-lution.org/> Rev. Mindi Prayer for 9/17/2023 Year A.

Prayer of Dedication: Edwin E Beers, Touch Holiness: Resource for Worship, edited by Ruth C Duck and Maren C Tirabassi.

God Is Truly with Us

Matt. 1:23; 2 Cor. 9:8; Rev. 4:8-11

Gerhard Tersteegen, 1729

Transl. Frederick W. Foster and others; alt.

1 God is tru-ly with us; sing we and a - dore now: praise the One we
 2 God is tru-ly with us; loud our praise re - sound - ing! Ech - oes of the
 3 Source of ev-ery bless - ing, bless the ones who name you, let our words and

come be - fore now. Here with-in this tem - ple, here in sound and
 saints sur-round - ing! "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," hear the hymn as -
 deeds pro-claim you. Like the saints and an - gels prais-ing you in

si - lence, wor-ship God in deep-est rev - erence. You a - lone,
 cend - ing, an - gels, saints, their voic - es blend - ing! Bow your ear
 glo - ry, may your ser - vants sing your sto - ry. And in all,

God, we own, you, our God and Sav - ior; praise to you for - ev - er.
 to us here; hear, O Christ, the prais - es that your Church now rais - es.
 great and small, may we do most near - ly what you love most dear - ly.

Gerhard Tersteegen, an important German hymnwriter of the Reformed Church, began preaching at prayer meetings and gained a considerable following. He devoted his life to praying, preaching, visiting the poor, and writing and translating devotional material.

Tune: WUNDERBARER KÖNIG 6.6.8.6.6.8.3.3.6.6.
 Joachim Neander, in A und Ω,
 Glaubund Liebestübung, Bremen, 1680

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.
 and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
 If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
 and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of psalms.

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Dutch melody
 Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906
 Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA

For the Fruit of All Creation

425

Fred Pratt Green, 1970

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

This text was written in response to a request for a new harvest hymn for an existing tune. After its publication in England in 1970, it became popular in many countries and can be found set to various tunes.

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Tune: AR HYD YNOS 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4.
 Welsh traditional melody
 Musical Relicks of the Welsh Bards, Dublin, 1784
 Harm. L. O. Emerson, 1906
 For another harmonization, see 82

