

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Freely you have received, freely give.
Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth.

***DOXOLOGY #607 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*We give you thanks and praise, O God,
for you have chosen the poverty of the world
to make your people rich in faith.
Help us to put our faith into practice
through the offering of our lives—
giving food to the hungry,
clothes to the naked,
and shelter to the poor;
all for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord,
your Word made flesh. Amen.*

— Sending —

Soon and Very Soon

***HYMN #384**

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

May we leave this house of worship today, quick to listen, slow to speak,
open to hearing and responding to God's truth.

May God bless you and keep you, be kind and gracious to you,
may God look upon you with favor and bring you peace. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Standing on the Promises

Joshua Allen

Rev. Michele R. Goff Pastor
Joshua Allen Music Director
Debbi Ricci Admin. Asst.

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Serving God,

Honoring Creation,

Embracing Differences



*18th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 26, 2021*

(*) Please rise in body or in spirit.

Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.

— *Gathering* —

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Joshua Allen

Jimmy Chapman

Liturgist: Claudia Morgan-Gray

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

the maker of heaven and earth.

Our hope is in the name of the Lord,

the healer of all that is wounded.

Our trust is in the name of the Lord,

the one we gather to worship and praise.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN #306

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

CONFESSION

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin together:

*Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts
be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.*

For you are our rock, and yet we place our faith in sinking sand.

You are our redeemer,

and yet we are convinced that we must save ourselves.

You are our source of unity,

and yet we isolate ourselves in every way we can.

You are our fount of forgiveness,

and yet we fear that we will be condemned.

Forgive us, O Rock.

Forgive us, O Redeemer,

and show us what it means to forgive one another.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...through the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! *Thanks be to God.*

— *Word* —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Bible P. 102

EPISTLE READING

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Bible p. 191-192

Hear the word of the Lord. This is the word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:34-46

Bible p. 24

Hear the word of God for us today.

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

Loving God and Neighbor

Jimmy Chapman

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

To the Lord our God, Alpha and Omega,

be all glory and honor forever. **Amen.**

— *Response* —

*HYMN #39

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – APOSTLES' CREED

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

and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell;

the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand

of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;

the holy catholic church;

the communion of saints;

the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body;

and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In our trouble and need, we look to the Lord,

the giver of our daily bread, saying:

God of abundant grace, *hear our prayer...*

through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven...