

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, September 26, 2021, at 11 a.m.

18th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Allegretto Grazioso
by Frank Bridge

Brad Slocum,
Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Rola Al Ashkar

God is our rock and our redeemer!
Blessed be the Lord, who made heaven and earth!
Come, let us worship God!

HYMN OF PRAISE

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art verses
1,3,5

*I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
my only trust and Savior of my heart, who
pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.*

*Thou art the life, by which alone we live, and
all our substance and our strength receive;
sustain us by thy faith and by thy power, and
give us strength in every trying hour.*

*Our hope is in no other save in thee; our faith is
built upon thy promise free; Lord, give us
peace, and make us calm and sure, that in thy
strength we evermore endure.*

▲CALL TO CONFESSION

Even the best of us fail at times to put our priorities in order. Let us approach God in confession.

▲PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Endless Mercy, we have often been swallowed up by our greed and selfishness,

**desiring that which we do not have,
filling our lives with things that do not save us.**

We have often been swept away by the floods of our own making,

polluting your creation, neglecting to be faithful stewards of the earth.

We have often attacked one another and led lives of violence,

sending missiles instead of accepting refugees, ignoring your commandments.

Lord have mercy, for we have sinned and fallen short of your glory.

Christ have mercy, for we are broken and need your salvation.

Lord have mercy upon us and hear us as we pray. **Amen.**

▲ THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

With forgiveness, God restores us to new life; with love, God sends us out to live as faithful people.

God uses the building blocks of grace, hope, love, and peace to create new hearts, new lives for us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen

▲ PASSING CHRIST'S PEACE

As our Lord gives peace to us, let us share this peace with each other saying, "The peace of Christ be with you."

And also with you.

Let us exchange words and signs of peace.

~~~~~ We Listen for God's Word ~~~~~

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rola

CHILDREN'S TIME TO SHINE

Rola

SUNG BLESSING FOR OUR CHILDREN #80 *Trees of the Field (Isaiah 55:12)*

*You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace.*

*The mountains and the hills will break forth before you.*

*There'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.*

*And all the trees of the field will clap their hands. \*clap-clap\**

*The trees of the field will clap their hands. \*clap-clap\* The*

*trees of the field will clap their hands \*clap-clap\* while*

*you go out with joy!*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Divine Spirit, surround us with the  
wisdom of your word that we might dance  
in your love  
and be messengers of your truth in this world. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 19:7-14

The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the LORD are sure,  
making wise the simple;  
the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eyes;  
the fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring for ever;  
the ordinances of the LORD are true  
and righteous altogether.  
More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey,  
and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.  
But who can detect their errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults.  
Keep back your servant also from the insolent;  
do not let them have dominion over me.  
Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Words of Holy Scripture.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*The Meditations of My Heart*

by Elaine Hagenberg

Katie Thorpe, soprano, Monica Serrano, alto, Don Tarnasky, tenor,

Brandon Anderson, bass

*May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord. O Lord, my Rock, O Lord, my Strength, O Lord, my God and Redeemer.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 9:38-50

Rev. Wes Nordman

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

SERMON

Not a Sermon for the Faint of Heart

Wes

**☪☪☪ We Respond to God's Love ☪☪☪**

PRAYERS FOR WESTMINSTER & THE WORLD

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*contemporary ecumenical version*)

**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 Our Gifts to God ☪☪☪**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Wes

OFFERTORY

*Adagio*  
by Antonio Vivaldi

RESPONSE

*Lord of All Good (1<sup>st</sup> verse)*

*Lord of all Good, our gifts we bring to you;  
Use them your holy purpose to fulfill,  
Token of love and pledges brought anew,  
That our whole life is offered to your will.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Wes

**☞☞☞ We Are Sent Into God's World ☞☞☞**

HYMN

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* verses 1-3

*O Love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee; I  
give thee back the life I owe, that  
in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.*

*O Light that followest all my way, I  
yield my flickering torch to thee;  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.*

*O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee; I  
trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain that  
morn shall tearless be.*

▲BENEDICTION

Wes

▲CHARGE

POSTLUDE

*God of Grace*  
by Paul Manz

