



**August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

*8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

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## **A Service of Worship and Praise**

### **We Gather in God's Name**

#### **GREETING**

#### **OPENING HYMN**

#### **Christian Worship 355**

*Take the World, But Give Me Jesus*

**Minister** says: We begin our worship in praise the same way we were baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation** says: AMEN

#### **We Prepare our Hearts**

**M:** As believers in Christ, we are called to repent of our sins and forgive one another. In the book of James, we are told, "Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for one another, so that you may be healed." As one body in Christ, we unite our hearts in prayer:

**C:** Lord, I pray to You because I am suffering. I have cut myself off from You and others by the sin in my life. I need Your forgiveness so that I may find healing for my wounded life and for the wounds I have caused others. Today, in the name of Jesus I pray, forgive me, and by the power of Your Holy Spirit, renew my heart. AMEN.

#### **We sing:**

*Change My Heart*

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

|: You are the potter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, may I be like you. :|

**M:** We take comfort and find confidence in the words of Jesus, "He has sent me to announce forgiveness to the prisoners of sin and restore sight to the blind, to give mercy to those whose lives are shattered by sin, to announce the favor of the Lord." God gave His only son, Jesus, to die for our sins and rise from death to give us eternal life. We are forgiven. We live in the favor of the Lord.

**C:** AMEN.

**We sing:**

*Lord I Lift Your Name on High*

|: Lord, I lift your name on high. Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life. I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from Heaven to Earth to show the way;  
from the Earth to the Cross, my debt to pay;  
from the Cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;  
Lord, I lift Your name on high. :|

## **WE PRAY TOGETHER**

**M:** Almighty God, you are eager to grant your goodness...

**C:** ...and joyful in sharing your grace.

**M:** You invite us into your presence...

**C:** ..to worship you with all our hearts.

**M:** Breathe your holy Spirit on us...

**C:** ...so that our tongues are eager to shout your praise!

**M:** Breathe your Holy Spirit on us...

**C:** ...so that our mouths are ready to proclaim the good news of Your Son.

**M:** Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** AMEN.

## **We Listen to God's Word**

### **FIRST LESSON**

*Ecclesiastes 1:1-2, 12-14, 2:18-26*

**1** The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

<sup>2</sup> "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.  
"Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."

<sup>12</sup> I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! <sup>14</sup> I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

**2** I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. <sup>19</sup> And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. <sup>20</sup> So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. <sup>21</sup> For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune.

<sup>22</sup> What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? <sup>23</sup> All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.

<sup>24</sup> A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, <sup>25</sup> for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? <sup>26</sup> To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

**We sing:**

*Shine Jesus Shine*

Shine, Jesus, shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory!

Blaze, Spirit, blaze! Set our hearts on fire.

Flow river flow! Flood the nations with grace and mercy.

Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness shining.  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;  
Set us free by the truth You now bring us.  
Shine on me. Shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory!  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze! Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow river flow! Flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

## **SECOND LESSON**

*Colossians 3:1-11*

**3** Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. **3** For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

**5** Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

**6** Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. **7** You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. **8** But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. **9** Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. **11** Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

*PLEASE STAND*

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

*Luke 12:22-34*

**22** Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear.

**23** For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. **24** Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!

<sup>25</sup> Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? <sup>26</sup> Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

<sup>27</sup> "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>28</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! <sup>29</sup> And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. <sup>30</sup> For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup> But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

<sup>32</sup> "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

*BE SEATED*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

### **African-American Heritage Hymnal 431**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

### **SERMON**

### ***Is Everything Really Meaningless?***

*Ecclesiastes 1:1-2, 12-14, 2:18-26*

### **VBS CHORUS**

*This Little Light of Mine*

*PLEASE STAND*

### **NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him, all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, He came down from Heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day, He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who, in unity with the Father and the Son, is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

*BE SEATED*

**OFFERING** **African-American Heritage Hymnal 330**  
*Father I Adore You*

**PRAYERS** *The Lord's Prayer*

**BLESSING**

**M:** Brothers and Sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C:** AMEN

**RITE OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP** *Phil Smith*  
*Greg Smith*

**CLOSING HYMN** *Welcome to The Family*

<b><u>Serving at Col.:</u></b>	<b><u>Today</u></b>	<b><u>Next Sunday</u></b>
Music	Katherine, Elijah	Katherine, Elijah
Ushers	Mike, Tony	Seth
Reader	Mike	Edward, Jr.
Altar		
Streaming	Noah	Noah
Refreshments	Potluck	Barb
Cleaning	VBS Staff	Barb
Mowing	Randy	

**CALENDAR**

Wednesday	7:00 PM Online Bible Class
Thursday	10:30 AM, Timeless Grace, Carriere, MS
Sunday	10:00 AM Bible Class, Sunday School
Sunday	11:00 AM Worship
Aug 17	Council, Ladies Guild
Sept 7	Grandparents Day

<b>OFFERING</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>%Budget</b>	<b>Projected</b>
Last Week	\$9,149.00	\$2,710.40	337.6%	
July	\$17,815.55	\$11,745.08	151.7%	\$17,815.55
Qtr-to-Date	\$17,815.55	\$35,235.25	50.6%	\$52,341.52
Year-to-Date	\$93,723.57	\$140,941.00	66.5%	\$160,369.58



*"...give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."  
II Corinthians 9:7*

