

WE GATHER IN CHRIST’S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC

Jesus Is Calling
Lucie Freeman, solo

George C. Stebbins

Jesus is tenderly calling thee home, calling today. Why from the sunshine of love wilt thou roam, farther and farther away? *(Refrain)* Calling today, Jesus is calling. Is tenderly calling today. Jesus is calling the weary to rest, calling today. Bring God thy burden and thou shalt be blest. God will not turn thee away. *(Refrain)* Jesus is waiting, O come to God now, waiting today. Come with thy sins, at God’s feet lowly bow. Come, and no longer delay *(Refrain)* Jesus is pleading, O list to God’s voice. Hear God today. They who believe on God’s name shall rejoice. Quickly arise and away. *(Refrain)*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CENTERING SILENCE

The Rev. Dr. James Butler

* OPENING SENTENCES (Psalm 8)

Laura VanDale

O Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth,
Your glory is above the sky and the seas.
We gaze at the heavens, the work of your fingers, and the stars you established.
What are human beings that you are mindful of us—mere mortals in your care?
You have made us a little lower than angels and crowned us with glory and honor.
You have given us dominion over your creation and put all things under our feet.
O Lord, our God!
How majestic is your name in all the earth.

* HYMN 664

“Morning Has Broken”

BUNESSAN

* ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Beloved in Christ: God is with us!
We are not alone!

CALL TO CONFESSION AND SILENT REFLECTION

UNISON CONFESSION

Mighty and merciful Creator, we are awed by the beauty of your creation. The earth, the sky, the lakes and oceans reveal your presence and glory. When we lay waste to the earth, foul rivers and lakes and oceans, and pollute the skies, for the sake of profit and convenience, forgive us and help us to be good stewards of what belongs to you.

Help us to realize that part of Christian faithfulness is caring for all that you created and called “good.” Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:26-31

(Pew Bible, O.T. p.1)

SOLO

Be Thou My Vision
Lucie Freeman, solo

Traditional Irish Melody

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart. Naught be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night. Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word. I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord. Thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower. Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise. Thou mine inheritance, now and always. Thou and thou only, first in my heart. High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art. High King of Heaven, my victory won. May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall. Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 4:26-30

(Pew Bible, N.T. p.38)

SERMON

“Planet Managers”

Dr. Butler

“And God said: ‘Be fruitful and multiply; have dominion over all other creatures...””

WE PRAY AND GIVE THANKS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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.

OFFERTORY HYMN 460 “Break, Thou the Bread of Life” BREAD OF LIFE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION *(see insert)*

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* HYMN 370 “This is My Father’s World” TERRA BEATA

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Our Mission

To extend the gracious welcome of God in Jesus Christ through worship,
service and spiritual growth in a supportive community of faith.

Staff

The Rev. Dr. James Butler, Pastor
The Revs. Dr. Steve and Dr. Cinda Gorman, Parish Associates
Dr. Kaori Hongo, Minister of Music
Aliyah Kennedy, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
Sara Gresh, Secretary and Financial Secretary
Kimberly Hook, Childcare Provider and Evening Receptionist
Carolyn Fordosi, Housekeeper
Scott Schreibman, Maintenance Custodian
Margaret Limkemann, Minister of Music Emerita



SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 7, 2025
10 a.m.
