

WE GATHER IN CHRIST’S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC *Praise the Lord* Johann Gottfried Walther

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CENTERING SILENCE The Rev. Dr. James Butler

\* UNISON INTROIT (Hymn 297, v. 4)  
*Unite us, anoint us, O Spirit of love. For you are within us, around us, above.  
Equip us for service with gifts you bestow.  
In Christ is our calling. In Christ may we grow.*

\* OPENING SENTENCES (from Psalm 100) Bette Case  
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of  
the Holy Spirit be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Cry out to the Lord with joy, all the earth. Worship with gladness.  
**For the Lord is gracious. God’s mercy never ends.**  
With glad hearts, let us sing God’s praise together.  
**Alleluia. Amen.**

\* HYMN 35 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” LOBE DEN HERREN

\* ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION  
Brothers and sisters, God is with us!  
**We are not alone!**

CALL TO CONFESSION AND SILENT REFLECTION

UNISON CONFESSION  
God of grace and loving kindness, we struggle to do what is right, just, and true. And  
yet, we know in our hearts that we fall short of your glory. We do not always love you  
above all else, with all our heart, mind and strength. We have failed to love our  
neighbors as we love ourselves. We have not done unto others as we would have  
them do unto us. Forgive us, and grant us strength to do justice, love kindness, and  
walk humbly with you, our God, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SUNG REPONSE (Hymn 341, v. 1)  
*O God, show mercy to us, and bless us with your grace.  
And cause to shine upon us the brightness of your face.  
So that your way most holy on earth may soon be known.  
And unto every people your saving grace be shown.  
Let all the people praise you, let all the nations sing.  
In every land let praises and songs of gladness ring.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S LIVING WORD

FIRST LESSON Amos 8:4-7 (Pew Bible, O.T. p.856)

ANTHEM *Simple Gifts* Hal H. Hopson  
Shaker tune  
‘Tis a gift to be simple, ‘tis a gift to be free. ‘Tis a gift to come down where we ought to be. And  
when we find ourselves in the place just right. ‘Twill be in the valley of love and delight. When  
true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend we shan’t be ashamed. To turn, turn will be our  
delight. ‘Till by turning, turning we come ‘round right.

\* GOSPEL LESSON Luke 16:1-13 (Pew Bible, N.T. p.79)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

DEPARTING SONG  
*‘Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, and to take him at his word.  
Oh, to rest upon his promise, and to know, “Thus says the Lord.”  
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him. How his light guides o’er and o’er.  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus. Oh, for grace to trust him more.*

SERMON “Be Shrewd for God’s Sake!” Dr. Butler  
“The master commended the dishonest manager because he acted shrewdly.”

\* HYMN 714 “God of the Fertile Fields” ITALIAN HYMN

## 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

*Lift Up Your Heart*

Sally DeFord

Lucie Freeman, solo

Lift up your heart in faith, for God is ever nigh you. Eager to bless His children. Mindful of every child. Lift up your heart in prayer, for God will ever heed you. Seek Him in every sorrow. Find Him in every need. Lift up your heart through tears of grief. He will give you peace and heal you. Lift up your heart in praise of Christ who has redeemed you. Praise His unfailing mercy. Praise His unchanging love. Lift up your heart, for by His might He will guard your path and guide you. Lift up your heart unceasing. Praising the savior's name. Lift up your heart, for He has ransomed you. Lift up your heart, for He will succor you. Lift up your heart, for He has offered you a crown of everlasting life. A crown of everlasting life.

\* **DOXOLOGY** (Hymn 606)

\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

\* **HYMN 731** "Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith is Firm" REPTON

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **DEPARTING MUSIC** *Praise the Lord* Max Drischner  
*The people are welcome to depart or remain seated while the Departing Music is played.*

#### 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



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## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

10 a.m.

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