

WE GATHER IN CHRIST’S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC Praeludium and Fuga Johann Sebastian Bach  
BWV 557

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

\* UNISON INTROIT (Hymn 393, v. 3)  
On you, God’s people, meeting, the Holy scriptures hear.  
Christ’s living presence greeting, through bread and wine made near.  
New graces ever gaining from this our day of rest.  
We reach the rest remaining to spirits of the blest.

\* GREETING AND OPENING RESPONSES Bette Case  
May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
And also with you.  
Jesus gave us a new commandment:  
We must love one another as he has loved us. (John 13:34)

\* HYMN 401 “Here in This Place” GATHER US IN

\* ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION  
Beloved in Christ: God is with us!  
We are not alone!

\* SONG OF PRAISE  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION AND SILENT REFLECTION

UNISON CONFESSION  
We have sinned, Lord, in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and left undone. We have not loved you above all else; we do not love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We have not forgiven as we have been forgiven. In your mercy, forgive us and help us to walk in newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 437)  
You are the Lord, giver of mercy. You are the Christ, giver of mercy.  
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

WE LISTEN FOR THE LIVING WORD

FIRST LESSON Exodus 21:12-25 (Pew Bible, O.T. p.67)

ANTHEM Where all Charity and love are Arr. Alan Bullard  
(Ubi caritas)  
Chancel Choir

Where all charity and love are, God is always there. We are all gathered unto one by the Christ’s love. Let us all rejoice and be glad in God. Let us praise God. Let us revere and let us love the living God. Let us love each other from the depths of our hearts. Therefore, wherever we are gathered all together, let our thoughts not be divided, let us be one. Let us cease to quarrel, let us live in peace. Let us center our thoughts with Christ in our midst. And with all the blessed company of saints let us see God. Let us see your glorious and most holy face, Christ the one God. Pure and unbounded joy be ours, Jesus Christ, our Lord for ever, and ever. Amen.

\* GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 5:38-47 (Pew Bible, N.T. p.5)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SUNG BLESSING  
Do not miss the faith of children who have questions deep inside.  
For to them belongs the kingdom; wonder with them, be their guide.  
Jesus, as we hear your blessing for those you welcomed in,  
May our deeds reflect your caring as we welcome them again.

SERMON “A Higher Biblical Standard” Dr. Butler  
“You have heard that it was said, ‘an eye for an eye’ but I say to you...”

WE PRAY AND GIVE THANKS

\* HYMN 415 “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy” RESTORATION

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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**                      *Come to the Table of Grace*                      Barbara Hamm  
Lucie Freeman, mezzo soprano  
Come to the table of grace. This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of love.

**\* DOXOLOGY** (Hymn 606)

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** *(see insert)*

**\* HYMN 529**                      “Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”                      UNION SEMINARY

**\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\* DEPARTING MUSIC**                      *Festival Toccata*                      Percy E. Fletcher  
*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  
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



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**SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY**  
Gathering Sunday Celebration  
September 13, 2026  
10 a.m.

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