

**September 22, 2024**  
**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 20**

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Prelude:** "Our Great Savior" Rowland H. Pritchard. Arr. Melody Bober

**Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Preparing Our Hearts for Worship**

**Call to Worship**

We have gathered to worship God.

**We have come seeking comfort,  
inspiration, community and insight.**

We have come to open ourselves  
to the power of God's presence in our midst.

**We have come to offer up the seasons  
and the turnings in our lives,  
and to ask God's help in our learning and in our growing.**

**Hymn VU 296** "This Is God's Wondrous World" Words: Malthie Davenport Babcock, 1901.

Music: English traditional melody, adapted by Franklin L. Sheppard, adapted by Stanley Oliver.  
Words & Music in the Public Domain.

This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.  
This is God's wondrous world: God shins in all that's fair;  
in the rustling grass or mountain pass, God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world: O let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad?  
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring: God reigns, let earth be glad!

**Opening Prayer**

**Holy One, You touch our lives with mystery and hope. You welcome us into your presence, yet we are not always ready to welcome others into our presence. Sometimes we feel that this place is ours, and we are slow to create space for outsiders in our space. Remind us that true hospitality is not about creating room for others within our space, but is about creating a space for all. Help us welcome not only those like ourselves, but those who are different, those we don't like, and those who we classify as our enemies. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Ministry of Music** "In the Garden" Text and Tune: Austin Miles 1868-1946

DUC Ladies Quartet

## **A New Creed** VU 918

We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

**Hymn VU 892** "Who Comes from God" Words: Patrick Michaels, 1989.

Music: Choralmelodien zum heiligen Gesange, 1808; arranged by Hal H. Hopson, 1991.

Words and Arrangement © 1989, 1991 Hope Publishing Co. OneLicense.net A620168 CCLI 11438349

Who comes from God, as Word and Breath? Holy Wisdom.

Who holds the keys of life and death? Mighty Wisdom.

Crafter and Creator too, Eldest, she makes  
all things new; Wisdom guides what God will do,  
Wisest One, Radiant One, welcome, Holy Wisdom.

Who lifts her voice for all to hear? Joyful Wisdom.

Who shapes a thought and makes it clear? Truthful Wisdom.

Teacher, drawing out our best, magnifies what  
we invest, names our truth, directs our quest,  
Wisest One, Radiant One, welcome, Holy Wisdom.

Whom should we seek with all our heart? Loving Wisdom.

Who once revealed, will not depart? Faithful Wisdom.

Partner, Counselor, Comforter, love has found none  
lovelier, life is gladness lived with her,  
Wisest One, Radiant One, welcome, Holy Wisdom.

## *We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings*

### Psalm 1

**Blessed are those who follow the law of God.**

Blessed are those who do not follow the counsel  
of the wicked, or linger in the way of sinners,  
or sit down among those who mock.

**But their delight is in the law of God,  
and on that law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted beside streams of water,  
yielding their fruit in due season.

**Their leaves do not wither,  
and whatever they produce shall prosper.**

**Blessed are those who follow the law of God.**

As for the wicked, it is not so with them,

**but they are like the chaff,  
driven away by the wind.**

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand  
when judgement comes,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

**For God watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**Blessed are those who follow the law of God.**

**Scripture: Mark 9:30-37** Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection / Who is the Greatest?  
They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was  
teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will  
kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was  
saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing  
about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the  
greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all  
and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to  
them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me  
welcomes not me but the one who sent me.

*The other readings for this week are: Proverbs 31:10-31; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a*

**Meditation:** "Welcome?"

**Hymn VU 606** "In Christ There Is No East or West"

Words: John Oxenham, 1908. Music: African-American spiritual, adap. and harm. by Harry T. Burleigh, 1939

Words, Music and Adaptation in the Public Domain.

In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great family of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, people of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be;  
all children of the living God  
are surely kin to me.

In Christ no meet both east and west,  
in him meet south and north;  
all Christlike souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.

### **We Respond To God's Grace**

#### **Invitation to Invest in God's Mission**

Giving isn't about money, it's about faith. Giving is part of the invitation to follow Jesus and to let his Spirit live and grow in us. Giving is part of the invitation to follow in Jesus' footsteps in sharing and caring and in putting others, especially the vulnerable and the marginalized, first. Our tithes and our offerings will be received.

**Offertory Hymn VU 538** "For the Gift of Creation" Words and Music: Steve Garnaas-Holmes, 1991.

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For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,  
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,  
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.  
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

Rather than boast of all that we have and are, may we humble ourselves,  
as we offer our lives, our hearts, and our gifts, in putting others first,  
that they might discover the wonders of the kingdom of grace and hope.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

#### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer**

Holy and Gracious God, from whom comes every blessing, we thank you for a new season, fall, that arrived today, and the harvest that accompanies it.

We pray for your church. Save it from apathy and stagnation. May it become again the channel through which your mission of equity and justice for all is carried out in the world. We pray this week especially for South Buxton Pastoral Charge, and their spiritual leader Eric Skillings.

We pray for all who are living with disaster, whether manmade or natural. We pray especially for the people of Central Europe, Central and Western Africa, and Southeast Asia who have been affected by devastating floods.

We pray for all with whom we share this earth, especially this week we think of the people of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Peru.

We pray for all who mourn, and for all who are ill or dying, awaiting medical treatment or recovering from medical intervention, especially..... and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

All this we pray in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray, saying:

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn VU 420** "Go to the World" Words: Sylvia Dunstan, 1985. Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906.  
Words © 1991 G.I.A. Publications Inc. Music: Oxford University Press. OneLicense.net A620168

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.  
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,  
baptising as the sign of our rebirth.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Go to the world! Go into every place.  
Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.  
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;  
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.  
As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,  
for I am with you 'til the age shall end,  
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

### **Commissioning**

Let us walk the road of service.

**We will feed God's hope to those we meet.**

Let us break down walls that divide.

**We will join the Servant of the world  
in embracing those filled with fear and despair.**

Let us teach kindness in our world.

**We will gather up our sisters and brothers,  
and rest in the Spirit's peaceful lap.**

**Response: VU 298** "When You Walk from Here" Words & Music: Linnea Good, 1991.  
Words & Music © 1991 Borealis Music. OneLicense.net A620168

When you walk from here, when you walk from here,  
walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God's humble care.

**Postlude:** "Blessed Assurance" Phoebe P. Knapp. Arr. Melody Bober

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The **Central Board** meets Wednesday, September 25 at 7 p.m.

The **study group** meets Wednesdays at 2 p.m. until October 30.

Metropolitan United Church is hosting a series on **Grief and Loss** Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m.

September 24 – *Who am I now? Change of Roles and Loneliness* – Grace Tallman, Grief Counsellor

October 1 – *Supporting Family Members in Greif* – Lisa Highfield, Healing Hearts and Heart Space

October 8 – *Grief, The Courageous Journey* – Alfredo Marroquin, Director St. Joseph's Hospice

FREE admission (Donations will be given to St. Joseph's Hospice).

FREE parking is available at Central High School.

## **LECTIONARY READINGS:**

September 29 – Nineteenth after Pentecost – Creation Time 4 – Proper 21

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50