

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 3, 2023 ~ 10:30 a.m.

The Gathering

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

Eternal God, when we search for you, we find you. When we seek you, we find you seeking us. Your presence among us changes our circumstances and our lives. We honor and worship you as an act of devotion and discipleship. Infuse us with your Spirit that our witness and ministry may be a testimony to your everlasting love. Amen.

PRELUDE

Prelude on Our Homeland, the Beautiful

Robert Cundick

Gathering Around the Word

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give thanks to the Holy One!

Many: The God of our ancestors is with us!

One: Give thanks to the Holy One!

Many: We call upon the name of our God, and our God responds.

One: Give thanks to the Holy One!

Many: The steadfast and faithful love of our God lasts forever!

HYMN

Christ for the World We Sing #686

Christ for the World we sing; the world to Christ we bring
With loving zeal – the poor and they that mourn,
The faint and overborne,
Sin sick and sorrow worn, For Christ to heal.

Vs. 2 Christ for the world we sing; the world to Christ we bring
With one accord – with us the work to share,
With us reproach to dare,
With us the cross to bear, for Christ the Lord.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Forgiving God, we acknowledge that repentance opens the door to forgiveness and transformation. We turn from our desire for comfort over compassion, easy solutions or challenging resolution, and avoidance over confrontation.

UNISON PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Forgive us and continually challenge us to be the people you have empowered and equipped us to be. We need your strength, fortitude, and conviction to overcome our fear of loss to make room for the gains of new life for ourselves and our neighbors through our generous and sacrificial living.

Silence is kept.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is faithful to forgive and to redeem. God will sustain us through the hard work of confronting truth about ourselves, our communities, and our world. Receive the companionship of the Holy Spirit who leads and guides us in all truth.

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER ["Sins"]

SPECIAL MUSIC "This Is My Country" By Al Jacobs Soloist, Kim Ogden

(please join on last refrain)

This is my country, land of my birth.

This is my country, grandest on earth.

I pledge thee my allegiance - America, the bold.

For this is my country to have and to hold!

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:1-15; Matthew 16:21-28

SERMON

"Identity Part 2."

Responding to the Word

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God of burning bushes be with you!

And also with you!

People of God, offer your hearts to God,
who calls to you from the mystery of grace.

**We turn aside from our worries to open ourselves
to the One who calls us to new life.**

Children of God, remember all the joy and wonder
which has been done for you.

**We will lift our voices in praise to the One who is
beyond all imagining.**

OFFERING

Prayer of Dedication/Offering

Generous God, thank you for the seeding and inspiring generosity in us. May these gifts be a blessing to the ministry of this church. Multiply them and make us fruitful and faithful steward of our time, talent, and treasure. Amen.

HYMN Here I Am, Lord

Vs. 1 I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry,
 All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright
 Who will bear my light to them: Whom shall I send?

*Ref. Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?
 I have heard you calling in the night.
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me,
 I will hold your people in my heart.*

Vs. 2 I the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
 I will set a feast for them, my hand will save,
 Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied,
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

*Ref. Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?
 I have heard you calling in the night.
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me,
 I will hold your people in my heart.*

Sending the Word

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE God of Our Fathers Gilbert M. Martin TUNE: *National Hymn*



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