

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 13, 2020

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

We worship today gathered in Spirit if not in body, realizing perhaps more than ever the nature of the body of Christ. We gather as a resurrection people even in our time of loss and uncertainty. As we gather may we be strengthened by the Spirit who knows no boundaries.

As you prepare for worship together you may wish to light a candle representing the presence of God with you and concerns, laments, desires for healing, confessions or prayers of thanksgiving that you are particularly holding in the light of Christ today.

PRELUDE

Voluntary in D

by John Alcock

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Anne Maverick, organ

Victoria Robertson

Patti Snyder

SONG FOR CENTERING

Our Eyes, Taizé

(Sung through six times)

Our eyes are turned to the Lord Je - sus Christ - our eyes are turned to the Lord God our sav - ior.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it;
the world and those that live in it.

**O praise the Holy One with me,
lifting our many voices into one as we praise God together!**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(responsive)*

God of love, forgive us and help us trust your love as we offer our honest prayers of confession.

Constant comparisons lead us to judge ourselves and others.

Love us to new life.

Returning fears limit our ability to follow you into the unknown.

Love us to new life.

Avoidance of difference invites a peace that does not fulfill.

Love us to new life.

Expectation of perfection hinders our appreciation of the beauty around us.

Love us to new life.

Reliance on our own abilities shuts us off from what you are doing in us and in our communities.

Love us to new life.

Allowing our privilege to insulate us from injustice perpetuates that which holds your creation back.

Love us to new life as our gifts and challenges are blended into the rich communities you created, you dream of, you are working – even now – to embolden.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Romans 14:1-12

Psalms 114

MEDITATION

Victoria Robertson

Patti Snyder

Patti Snyder

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OF GIFTS

During this time you are encouraged to consider your response to the work of Christ in the world today, making a commitment of time, talents, and resources. Please remember your family, neighbors, the wider community, and the church in your offering. Although many things are shifting, please continue to honor previous commitments to the best of your ability.

If you choose to contribute to the work of Christ through UPC at this time, online giving is available via the GIVE tab on our website (www.upcbr.org) or by texting "upcbr (space) and then the number of dollars" to 73256.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION *(unison)*

God of all mercies, we give you humble thanks for the home you make in us and in this world. For the power of your grace in Christ claiming all humanity as valued, even as the energy of your Spirit makes something new of our lives together, we give you thanks. Give us a clear awareness of your loving presence that we might show forth your praise, not only with our lips but with our lives, giving ourselves to your service in service to one another. We ask it in Christ's name. Amen.

CHARGE, AND BENEDICTION
BENEDICTION RESPONSE
Go with God.
Alleluia and Amen.
CLOSING MUSIC

Morning Has Broken
Gaelic melody with text by Eleanor Farjeon
Arrangements by James Holloway and Beverly Howard
David Walters, baritone
Sonia Feres-Lloyd, viola
Anne Maverick, organ

*Morning has broken like the first morning;
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!*

*Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Spring in completeness where God's feet pass.*

*Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation; praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!*