

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22nd, 2024

Portage Lake United Church



Christ Blessing the Children ca. 1535-1540
Lucas Cranach 1472-1553

Lectionary Year B

Liturgical Color: Green
Proper 20(25)

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then
peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of
mercy and good fruits ... James 3:17a



Welcome and Announcements

We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, source of all goodness and mercy. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

- All Church Picnic: Today after Worship @ the Dalquist's. Bring a dish to share.
- Fellowship Guild Breakfast: Saturday, October 5th, 9:00 @ Victoria's Kitchen.
- October newsletter articles due Tuesday, September 24th. The newsletter will go out the first week of October, when Beth returns from vacation.
- There will be no Weekly Email next week.
- Angel Mission needs: Rolled oats
- There is a new coffee sign up sheet on the table in the lounge.
- Upcoming vacations: Pastor Peter will be gone September 23-October 7. Beth will be gone September 25-October 2. The office will be closed September 25 - October 2.
- For a full listing of recovery meetings and other groups, check the calendar page at PLUC.org

Are there any other announcements?

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland
Musician: Susie Bykkonen
Greeters: Lois Jambekar
Reader: Beth Smock
Prayer Writer: Lois Jambekar Church
Picnic @ the Dalquist's
Children's Church: Olivia Bykkonen



Sherry Middlemis-Brown

MEDITATION

If our lives are modeled after the one we claim to follow, we will, as Jesus did, look with compassion upon all who cross our paths.

Rueben P. Job

PRELUDE

✚ CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

In this time set apart for worship,
the Holy Spirit invites us:

Draw near to God,
who is steady and sure.

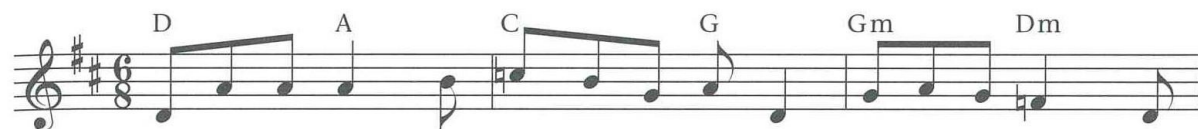
Draw near to God,
who welcomes those often overlooked.

Draw near to God,
who draws us together,
threads woven in a shared fabric of faith.

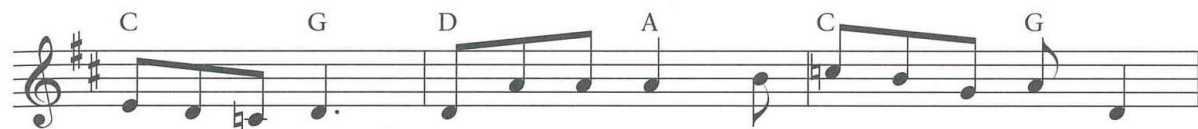
Let us worship the Lord!

Gather Us In

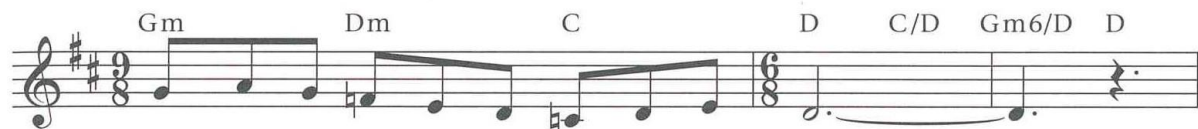
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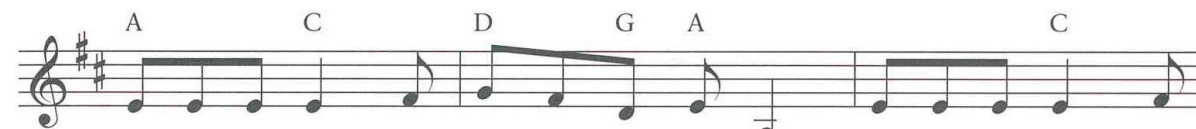
1 Here in this place — new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - tery, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



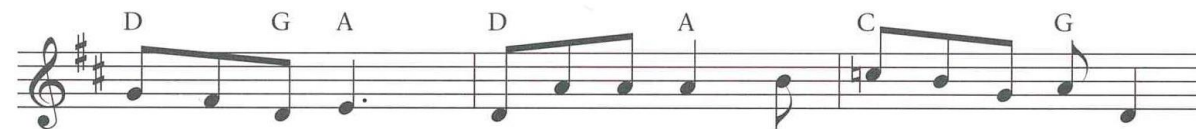
van-ish-ed a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his - tory,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a - way — here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



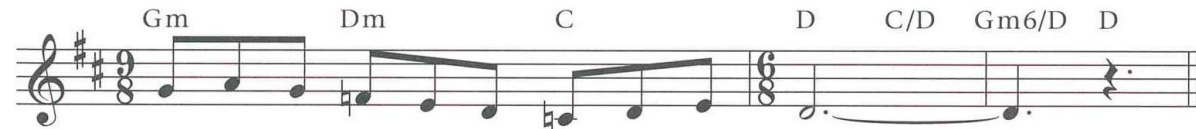
brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peop-les to-geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire — of love in our flesh and our bone.

✚ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Faithful God,
you do not promise that following you will be easy,
but you teach us that your way
is one of peace, gentleness, and mercy,
of welcome for all.

Guide us by your wisdom
and inspire us to embrace this way of living,
so that we might draw near to you.

Amen.

+ Prayer of Confession (unison)

You told us, O Lord, that whoever wants to be first must be last and servant of all.

**Oh, how we long to be first, O God:
to climb every ladder, frame every achievement,
get every promotion, and obtain every glory.**

**Oh, how we long to be first, O God,
and oh, how we dread being last.**

**Forgive us, O humble Christ,
and by your forgiveness, teach us.**

Teach us to reframe our priorities.

**Teach us to be servants first,
and to let our lives flow from a heart of faith.**



Ann Campbell

+ PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Greet each other with a sign of God's peace.

Children of God, we are the body of Christ.

By one spirit we were baptized into one body.

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.



WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture,
reading, preaching and song*



Jesus Teaching the Disciples
Ilyas Basim Khuri Bazzi Rahib
Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD

Jeremiah 11:18-20

The prophet is like a lamb

It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their deeds.

But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,

"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit;
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God

James 3:13-4:3. 7-8a

Two Kinds of Wisdom

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. **14** But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. **15** Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. **16** For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. **17** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. **18** And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Friendship with the World

4:1 Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? **2** You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. **3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God

HYMN "O Day of Peace" #450 BLUE

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Isaiah 11:6-9

CHURCH: TRIUMPHANT

O Day of Peace

450

JERUSALEM LMD

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1982

C. Hubert H. Parry, 1916
Harm. Richard Proulx, 1986



1. O day of peace that dim-ly shines
2. Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,



Through all our hopes and prayers and dreams, Guide us to jus - tice,
Nor shall the fierce de - vour the small; As beasts and cat - tle



truth, and love, De - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of
calm - ly graze, A lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e -



hate fall from our hands, Our hearts from en - vy find
mies shall learn to love, All crea - tures find their true



re - lease, Till by God's grace our war - ring
ac - cord; The hope of peace shall be ful -



world Shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.
filled, For all the earth shall know the Lord.



Accompaniment for this tune, 252

♩=48-52

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+ GOSPEL READING Mark 9:30-37

Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection

30 They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; **31** 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.” **32** But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Who Is the Greatest?

33 Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” **34** But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. **35** He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” **36** Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, **37** “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

This is the Gospel of the Load. Thanks be to God

Sermon



Christ Teaching the Disciples

Hans Schäufelein

Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, NY

A wide-angle landscape photograph capturing a serene sunset or sunrise over a vast body of water. The sky is a mix of deep blues, purples, and oranges, with scattered clouds catching the low light. In the foreground on the right, the dark silhouette of a large evergreen tree frames the scene. The water's surface is calm with gentle ripples. In the distance, a small boat is visible on the water, and a low, dark landmass stretches across the horizon. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Offering

OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

We thank you for the wealth you shower on us daily,
O Lord, and we witness the marvelous goodness that
comes from you.

Transform these gifts into signs of welcome for all who
are touched by their use.

Transform us into people who bless others throughout
each day, in Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

GOD

298 There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7 D

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen (1855–1933)



1. There’s a wide-ness in God’smer - cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the mea-sures of the mind;



There’s a kind-ness in God’sjus-tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.
And the heart of the E - ter-nal Is most won-der - ful - ly kind.



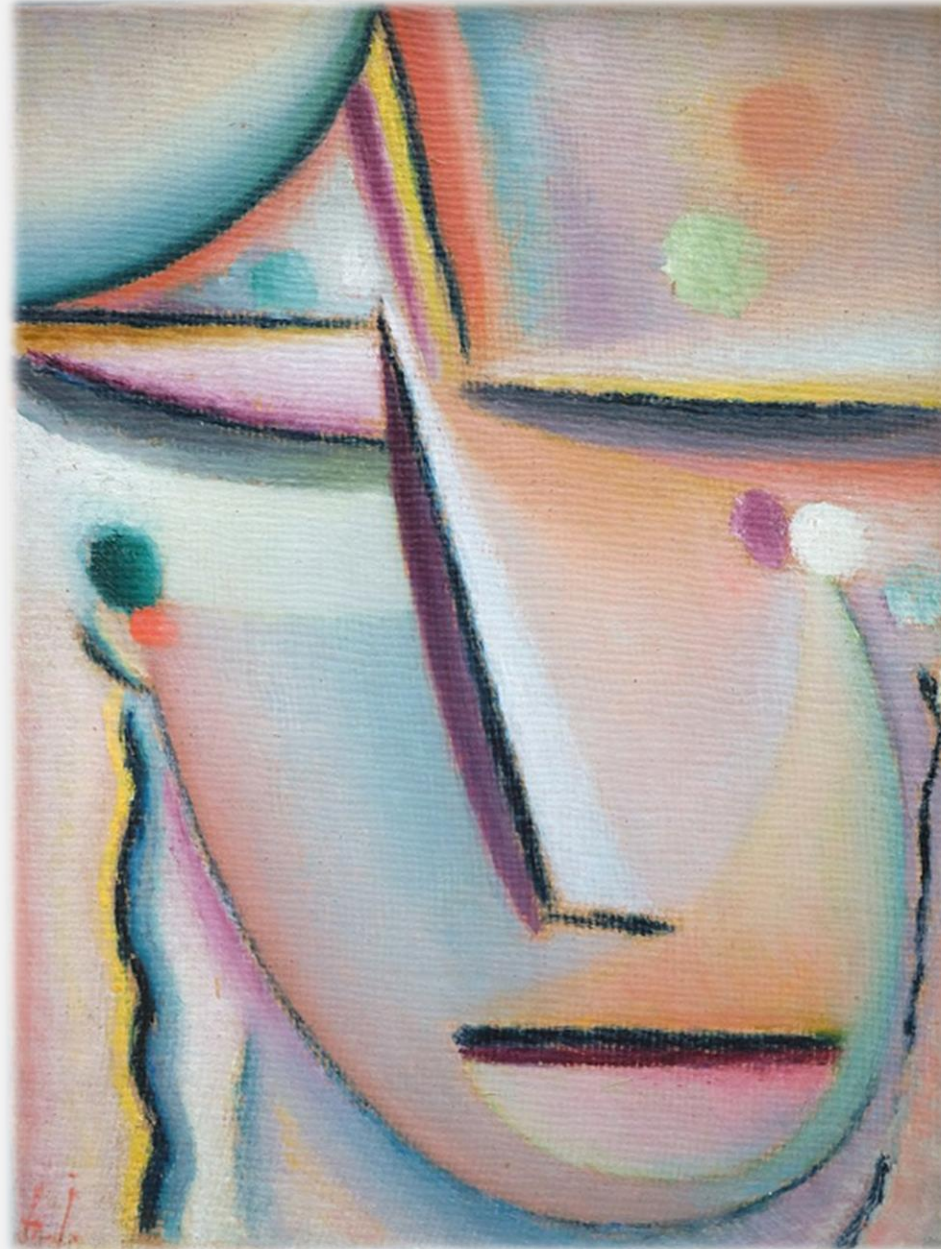
There is no place where earth’s sor-rows Are more felt than up in heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, We would glad-ly trust God’s Word;



There is no place where earth’s fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg - ment given.
And our lives re - flect thanks-giv-ing For the good-ness of our Lord.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



Meditation (Prayer)
Alexej von Jawlensky
Lenbachhaus Munich, Germany

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

ECUMENICAL

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.



LIFE IN CHRIST

339

Be Thou My Vision

Ancient Irish poem
Trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
Vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912; alt.

SLANE 10.10.9.10

Irish ballad
Harm. David Evans, 1927



1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
3. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word;



Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—
Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;



Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

For those who make peace,
a harvest of righteousness is sown.
Be gentle, honest, and merciful with those you meet;
ask for wisdom,
and wisdom will fill you with joy.

The God of all creation,
who calls you to the power greater than death,
Christ Jesus,
who welcomes everyone,
and the Spirit of kindness and abundant life,
be with you now and always.



Peace I Leave with You!
Tile from Peace Wall in Hamilton, New Zealand

Postlude

Question for Reflection

Give yourself some moments each day in the coming week to sit quietly with your eyes closed.

Visualize Jesus kneeling down, opening his arms, and bringing you close to his heart. Let yourself be a little child who is welcomed.

What do you notice?



*Matriarch, or, Grandmother and Granddaughter
Victor Navarro Guedes, Canary Islands, Spain*

Thanks To

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Picnic @ the Dalquist's

Children's Church: Olivia Bykkonen

Visio Divina

Photos by

Ann Campbell

Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Beth Smock

Season of Creation

Season of Creation

Artwork

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Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rooted in the Trinity. Growing in God's Word.
Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.