

Second Sunday after Pentecost

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28

June 22nd 2025

Portage Lake United Church

Proper 7 (12)



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.

- We are looking for one more person to help with coffee next Sunday. Plus, it is time to start signing up for July.
- Pine Mountain Music Festival “Upstarts” concert at PLUC on Saturday, June 28, 2025 at 7:30 pm.
- Angel Mission needs: Canned chicken
- Are there any other announcements?



Liturgical Color: Green
Lectionary Year C

Serving This Morning

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland
Musician: Susie Bykkonen
Greeter: Jon Koskiniemi, Brian Hirvela
Reader: Harold Evensen
Prayer: Carl Vilmann
Coffee: Judy Albee, Louisa Kolch
Children's Church: Olivia Bykkonen

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION

This must be our answer also. Then when suffering and sacrifice are required of us, we must respond like Isaiah. “Whom shall I send?” inquired the Lord, “Here!” called Isaiah, “Here I am, send me.”

(Norman Shawchuck)



Preacher
Eddie Dixon
Juneteenth Memorial Monument Austin, TX

✚ Call to Worship (responsive)

When we long for your presence,
you are there with us, O source of comfort.
When we face dangers and perils,
you are there for us, O source of strength.
When we need to do justice,
you are there within us, O source of courage.
So we come with songs and praises,
that all the ends of the earth
and all the families of the nations
may know of your love.
Let us praise God!



CHURCH: UNIVERSAL

Luke 13:29

439 In Christ There Is No East or West

ST. PETER CM

John Oxenham, 1908; alt.

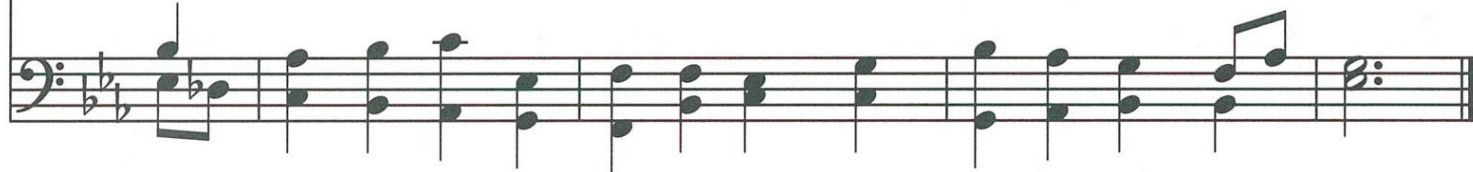
Alexander Robert Reinagle, 1836



1. In Christ there is no east or west, In Him no south or north;
2. In Christ shall true hearts ev-ery-where Their high com-mu-nion find;
3. Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, What-e'er your race may be.
4. In Christ now meet both east and west, In Him meet south and north;



But one great fel-low-ship of love Through-out the whole wide earth.
His ser-vice is the gold-en cord Close-bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God Are sure-ly kin to me.
All Christ-ly souls are one in Him Through-out the whole wide earth.



+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Living God,
you call us to yourself
so that we may live in wholeness
with ourselves and our neighbors.
Unchain your people
and set us free to rejoice in your
saving word,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.



+ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of Grace,
we have harmed your children
whom you love.
Because we do not understand them,
we segregate them,
we reject them,
we demonize them,
and we hurt them.
Forgive us, in your infinite love,
and teach us to welcome
all of your children
until our hospitality
is as wide as your mercy.
Help us to understand others
as we wish to be understood.
Guide us to love one another
as you love us.
This is good news!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!



+ PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

We greet one another 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



Juneteenth Celebration 2019 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Encyclopedia Britannica)

Isaiah 65:1-9

The prophet sent to a rebellious people

65:1 I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that did not call on my name. 65:2 I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; 65:3 a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on bricks; 65:4 who sit inside tombs and spend the night in secret places; who eat the flesh of pigs, with broth of abominable things in their vessels; 65:5 who say, "Keep to yourself; do not come near me, for I am too holy for you." These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all day long. 65:6 See, it is written before me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into their laps 65:7 their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together, says the LORD; because they offered incense on the mountains and reviled me on the hills, I will measure into their laps full payment for their actions. 65:8 Thus says the LORD: As the wine is found in the cluster, and they say, "Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it," so I will do for my servants' sake and not destroy them all. 65:9 I will bring forth descendants from Jacob and from Judah inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.

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

Galatians 3:23-29

3:23 Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. 3:24 Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. 3:25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, 3:26 for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. 3:27 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 3:28 There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

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

✚HYMN “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind” #345

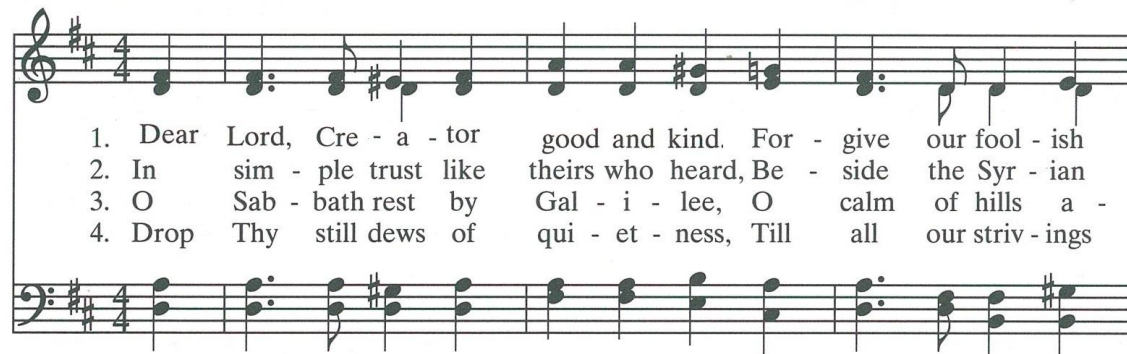
LIFE IN CHRIST

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind 345


REST 8.6.8.8.6

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872

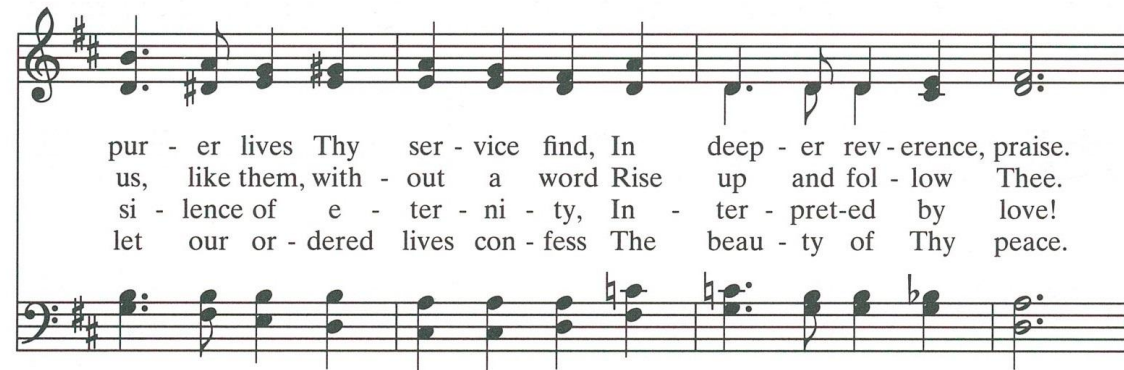
Frederick Charles Maker, 1887



1. Dear Lord, Cre - a - tor good and kind. For - give our fool - ish
2. In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, Be - side the Syr - ian
3. O Sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee, O calm of hills a -
4. Drop Thy still dews of qui - et - ness, Till all our striv - ings



ways; Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, In
sea, The gra - cious call - ing of the Lord, Let
bove, Where Je - sus knelt to share with Thee The
cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, And



pur - er lives Thy ser - vice find, In deep - er rev - erence, praise.
us, like them, with - out a word Rise up and fol - low Thee.
si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, In - ter - pret - ed by love!
let our or - dered lives con - fess The beau - ty of Thy peace.

*Or “Dear Lord, Creator good and kind.”

5. Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!

Alternate tune: REPTON, 419

✚ GOSPEL READING Luke 8:26-39

8:26 Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 8:27 As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. 8:28 When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"--8:29 for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) 8:30 Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. 8:31 They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. 8:32 Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. 8:33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. 8:34 When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. 8:35 Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. 8:36 Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. 8:37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. 8:38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 8:39 "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Sermon



Austin History Center

June 19th, 1865, the Union soldiers, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free.

Offering and Prayer of Dedication (unison)

With these gifts, O God,
we remember with thanksgiving
the life that we have because of you.
Make us grateful every day
for the privilege of offering ourselves
for the well-being of all your world. Amen.



Hands All Together
Avondale Pattillo United Methodist Church, Decatur, GA

✚ OFFERING HYMN “What Does the Lord Require of You?”

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

What Does the Lord Require of You? 70

Capo 3: (G)

(D)

(Em)

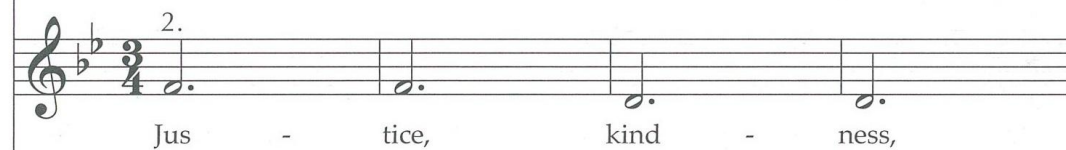
(Bm)

B \flat

F

Gm

Dm



(C)

(G)

(Am)

(D)

(G)

E \flat

B \flat

Cm

F

B \flat

Repeat as desired



This text is a very slight paraphrase of the latter part of Micah 6:8. That verse sums up in a single sentence the legal, ethical, and covenantal requirements of religion. The intertwining of these commitments can be suggested by singing these phrases in an overlapping canon.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



Ann Campbell

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.



Fire and Breath © Jan Richardson

THE CHURCH

301

Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B^b C Dm

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C

safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm

how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
Gm C F B^b

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
F B^b A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (A7)
Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F C7

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshipping community.

SENDING

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

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Go in peace to care for those who cross your path,
to give voice to those who need your help,
to notice what is beautiful and what is amiss,
to counter injustice and guard what is good, and
to rest and work, mindful of God's desire
for your health and faith.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.



Postlude and Reflection

Think of the many ways in which people are “chained” and how the word of God speaks differently to those prisons. What specific constraint is in your own life for which you might pray that the Holy Spirit show you a path toward freedom?



Thanks to

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland

Musician: Susie Byykkonen

Greeter: Jon Koskiniemi, Brian Hirvela

Reader: Harold Evensen

Prayer: Carl Vilmann

Coffee: Judy Albee, Louisa Kolch

Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen

Visio Divina

Photos by

Ann Campbell

Greg Campbell

Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Jim Northey

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=51555>

Veni Sancti Spiritus ca. 1965 Kossowski, Adam

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56946>

Wisdom J. Paul Getty

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55675>

Fire and Breath © Jan Richardson Images <https://janrichardsonimages.com/>

Additional descriptions can be found at the Art in the Christian Tradition image library, a service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/>. All images are available via Creative Commons 3.0 License.



Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1400 East Houghton Avenue, Houghton Michigan 49931
www.PLUC.org office@pluc.org (906)482-5224

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

1. All Scriptures taken from NRSV, copyright Thomas Nelson publishers.
2. All songs used with permission. One License # A-725614
3. Portions reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion. Copyright 2013