

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 17th 2025
Portage Lake United Church
Proper 15 (20)



Lectionary Year C
Liturgical Color: Green



Ann Campbell

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.

- Afternoon on the Town: Saturday, August 23, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. We need people to staff our table during that time. There's a sign up sheet on the table in the lounge. We also need wrapped candies. Donations may be brought to the church before the event.
- A Re-sale Bazaar will be held at the Salvation Army Bread of Life 408 Ravine St. Hancock on Saturday, September 6 from 10 to 2 to support Copper Country Angel Mission.
- Angel Mission needs: Unsweetened Apple Sauce



Serving This Morning

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland
Musician: Susie Byykkonen
Greeter: Liz & Harold Evensen
Reader: Harold Evensen
Prayer Writer: Lois Jambekar
Coffee: Biruta Lowther, Sangja Lee
Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION

So it is to insure that the operation of grace may remain a mystery of faith that God permits it to be slow and painful.

(Francois de Salignac de la Mothe-Fenelon)

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

+ Call to Worship (responsive)

In a world where lies surround us,
your word is like fire, God nearby!

In a world full of false prophets and empty promises,
your word is like fire, God nearby!

In a world where words don't have meaning,
your word is like fire, God nearby!

We are here, ready for our faith
to be kindled by your word.

We are here to worship the God who is nearby!



Hymn "When Morning Gilds the Skies" #487 BLUE

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LAUDES DOMINI 6.6.6 D

German hymn, c. 1800
Trans. Edward Caswall, 1853, 1858; alt.

Joseph Barnby, 1868



1. When morn - ing gilds the skies, My heart a - wak - ing cries:
2. Does sad - ness fill my mind? A sol - ace here I find:
3. Let earth's wide cir - cle round In joy - ful notes re - sound:
4. Be this, while life is mine, My can - ti - cle di - vine:



May Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer
May Je - sus Christ be praised! Or fades my earth - ly bliss?
May Je - sus Christ be praised! Let air and sea and sky
May Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this the e - ter - nal song



To Je - sus I re - pair: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
My com - fort still is this: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
From depth to height re - ply: May Je - sus Christ be praised!
Through all the a - ges long: May Je - sus Christ be praised!



+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Faithful God,
you have blessed us
with the inheritance of grace
that we might live as
people of justice, righteousness, and peace.
Stir in us your power
and fill us with the love of Christ,
strong and true,
that we may be always eager
to serve your promised reign of peace.
Amen.



✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Loving Creator,
with a gardener's tender touch,
you planted your people to bear good fruit,
but we bear wild grapes.

With a welder's fierce fire,
you fashioned your people to glorify you,
but we are riddled with impurities.

In your generous mercy, O God,
regard the vine you planted:
save and restore us.

Reform the vessel you crafted:
cleanse and refine us.

Give us life, O God,
that with our whole being,
we may worship you rightly.



The Rose – Sherry Middlemis-Brown

+ PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

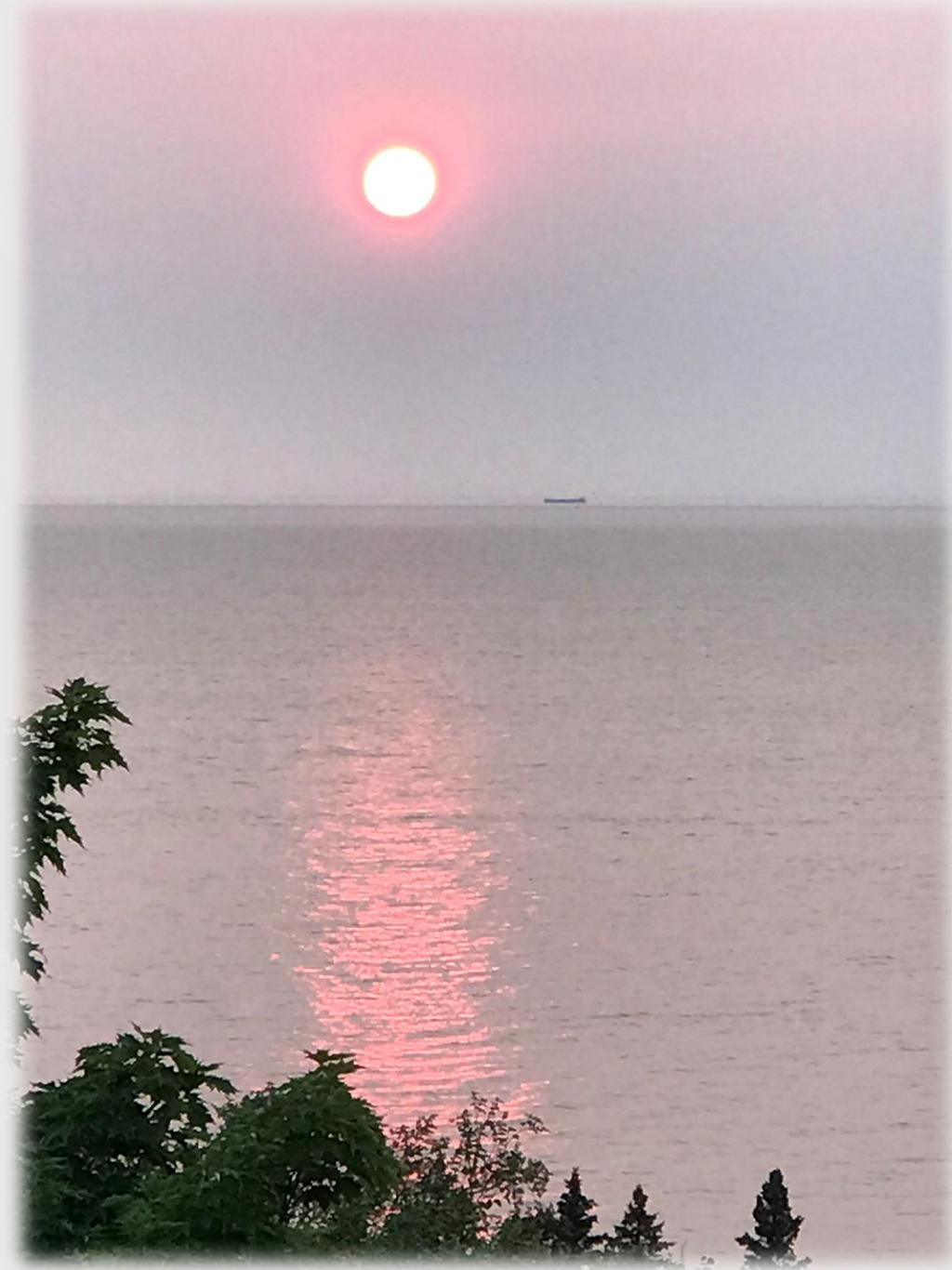
We greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

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



Red Vineyards near Arles Vincent Van Gogh, 1888

Jeremiah 23:23-29

God's word is like fire

23:23 Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? 23:24 Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. 23:25 I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" 23:26 How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back--those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? 23:27 They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. 23:28 Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. 23:29 Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

11:29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. 11:31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. 11:32 And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— 11:33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 11:34 quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 11:35 Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. 11:36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 11:37 They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— 11:38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. 11:39 Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, 11:40 since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 12:2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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


✚ Hymn "God, Whose Purpose is to Kindle"

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PENTECOST: HOLY SPIRIT

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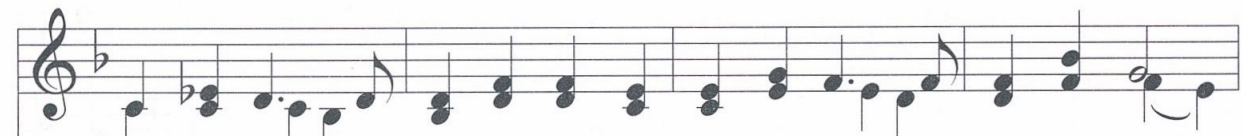
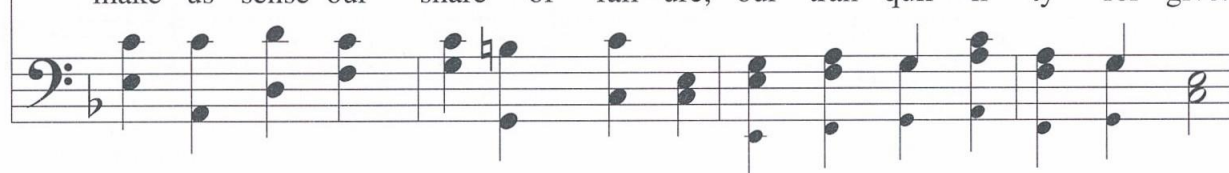
God, Whose Purpose Is to Kindle



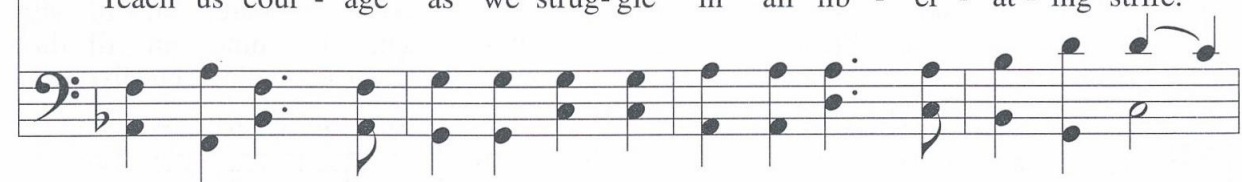
1 God, whose pur- pose is to kin- dle, now ig- nite us with your fire.
2 God, who still a sword de- liv- ers rath- er than a plac- id peace,
3 God, who in your ho - ly Gos- pel wills that all should tru - ly live,



While the earth a - waits your burn- ing, with your pas- sion us in- spire.
with your shar- pened word dis - turb us, from com - pla - cen - cy re - lease!
make us sense our share of fail- ure, our tran- quil - li - ty for - give.



O - ver- come our sin - ful calm- ness, rouse us with re - demp - tive shame.
Save us now from sat - is - fac - tion, when we pri - vate - ly are free,
Teach us cour - age as we strug- gle in all lib - er - at - ing strife.



Bap - tize with your fi - ery Spir - it, crown our lives with tongues of flame.
yet are un - dis - turb ed in spir - it by our neigh - bor's mis - er - y.
Lift the small - ness of our vi - sion by your own a - bun - dant life.



WORDS: Based on Luke 12:49, D. Elton Trueblood, 1900-1993, alt., © 1967 D. Elton Trueblood
MUSIC: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918

8.7.8.7.D.
RUSTINGTON

✚ GOSPEL READING Luke 12:49-56

12:49 "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! 12:50 I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! 12:51 Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! 12:52 From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; 12:53 they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." 12:54 He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. 12:55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. 12:56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God



Sermon

Holy Spirit and Fire with Baptismal Font Mexicali, Mexico

Offering and Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God of the ages,
surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses,
we faithfully add our gifts to those who have
gone before us throughout the generations.
Bless these gifts that they may spread your
love in the world.
Amen.



+ OFFERING HYMN "O Jesus, I Have Promised" #389 BLUE

389

O Jesus, I Have Promised

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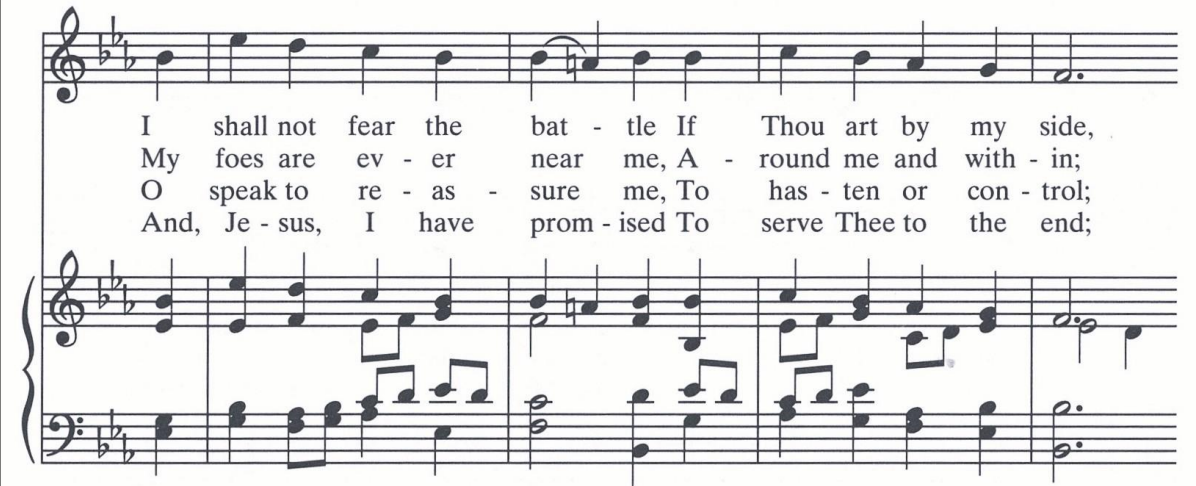
John Ernest Bode, 1866

Finnish folk melody
Adapt. and harm. David Evans, 1927



1. O Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve Thee to the end;
2. O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ev - er near;
3. O let me hear Thee speak - ing In ac - cents clear and still,
4. O Je - sus, Thou hast prom - ised To all who fol - low Thee

Be Thou for - ev - er near me, My Mas - ter and my friend;
I see the sights that daz - zle, The tempt - ing sounds I hear;
A - bove the storms of pas - sion, The mur - murs of self - will;
That where Thou art in glo - ry There shall Thy ser - vant be;



I shall not fear the bat - tle If Thou art by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, A - round me and with - in;
O speak to re - as - sure me, To has - ten or con - trol;
And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised To serve Thee to the end;

LIFE IN CHRIST



Nor wan - der from the path - way If Thou wilt be my guide.
But, Je - sus, draw Thou near - er And shield my soul from sin.
O speak, and make me lis - ten, Thou guard - ian of my soul.
O give me grace to fol - low, My Mas - ter and my friend.

$\text{♩} = 46-50$

Alternate tune: ANGEL'S STORY, 388

Music: Adaptation and harmonization from the *Revised Church Hymnary 1927*; used by permission of Oxford University Press.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

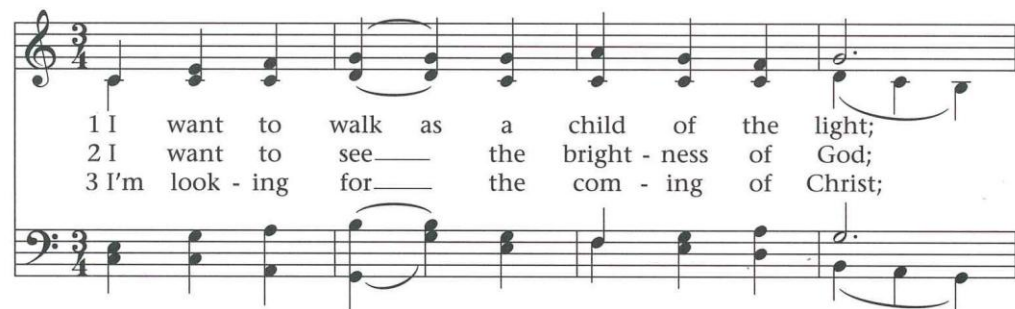


✚HYMN "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

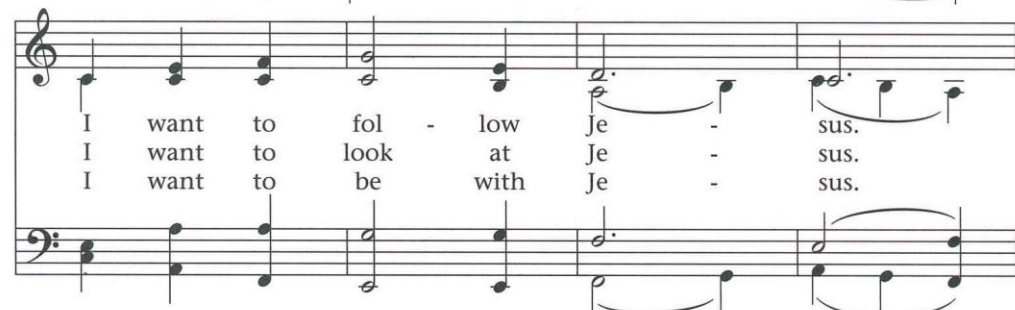
#77 GREEN

77

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light;
2 I want to see the bright - ness of God;
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ;



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world;
Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,

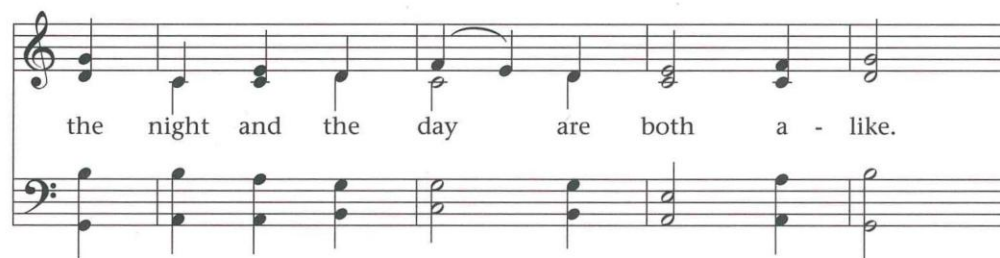


the star of my life is Je - sus.
and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



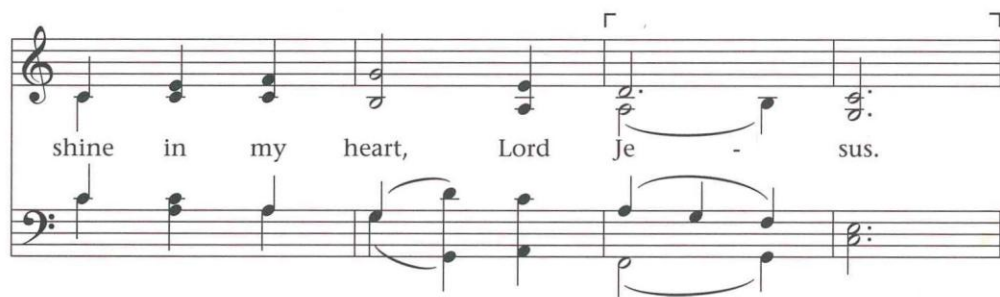
In him there is no dark - ness at all;



the night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God;



shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Christ walked in perfect faith
that we might follow in the way of peace.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

May Christ,
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,
grant you the perseverance and courage
to follow him
in justice, righteousness, and peace.



Postlude and Reflection

How has following Christ caused conflict in your own life or in the life of someone you know?



Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Thanks to

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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.

Visio Divina Photos by

Ann Campbell
Sherry Middlemis-Brown
Jim Northey

Cover

Picture by Ann Campbell

Word

Red Vineyards near Arles Vincent Van Gogh, 1888

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57026>

Offering

"A Skyspace is an enclosed room large enough for roughly 15 people. Inside, the viewers sit on benches along the edge to view the sky through an opening in the roof. As a lifelong Quaker, Turrell designed the Live Oak Meeting House for the Society of Friends, with an opening or skyhole in the roof, wherein the notion of light takes on a decidedly religious connotation." [from Wikipedia] -- Photograph by Mira66

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55702>

Sermon

Holy Spirit and Fire with Baptismal Font Mexicali, Mexico

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