

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost



Sacrifice of Isaac, 915-921
Palatine Cathedral of the Holy Cross
Akdamar Island, Türkiye

July 28th 2026
Portage Lake United Church

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.*

- There is a new sign-up for Sunday morning volunteers in the lounge.
- The Angel Mission needs: Dried fruits, no sugar added
- ***Are there any other announcements?***



*Liturgical Color Green – Ordinary Time
Lectionary Year A*

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland
Musician: Susie Byykkonen
Reader: Marla Bonhoff
Greeter: Al Eckhart
Prayer Writer: Lois Jambekar
Coffee: Ann Campbell



MEDITATION

God communicates with all of us!
We get little nudges-feelings that this or
that should be done or not done;
we get hunches and leadings, signs
signals, and sometimes direct messages.

Yearning to Know God's Will, Danny E. Morris

PRELUDE

Shepherd Me, O God
Marty Haugen/arr. Mark Hayes

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Your love, O Lord, forever we will sing.

From age to age,

we will proclaim your faithfulness.

Let us worship the God of Life!



HYMN "Gather Us In" #8 GREEN

1. Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

3. Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone

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The musical score is written in treble clef, key of D major, and 6/8 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a line of lyrics below it. Chords are indicated above the notes.

System 1: D A C G Gm Dm
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,

System 2: C G D A C G
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,

System 3: Gm Dm C D C/D Gm6/D D
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.

System 4: A C D G A C
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

System 5: D G A D A C G
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,

System 6: Gm Dm C D C/D Gm6/D D
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

Steadfast God, you greet us as a loving parent
and patiently love us beyond all measure.
Great is your faithfulness.
May we offer that same kindness to all whom
we encounter, knowing it is Christ whom we
greet as we welcome others.
Amen.

+ PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

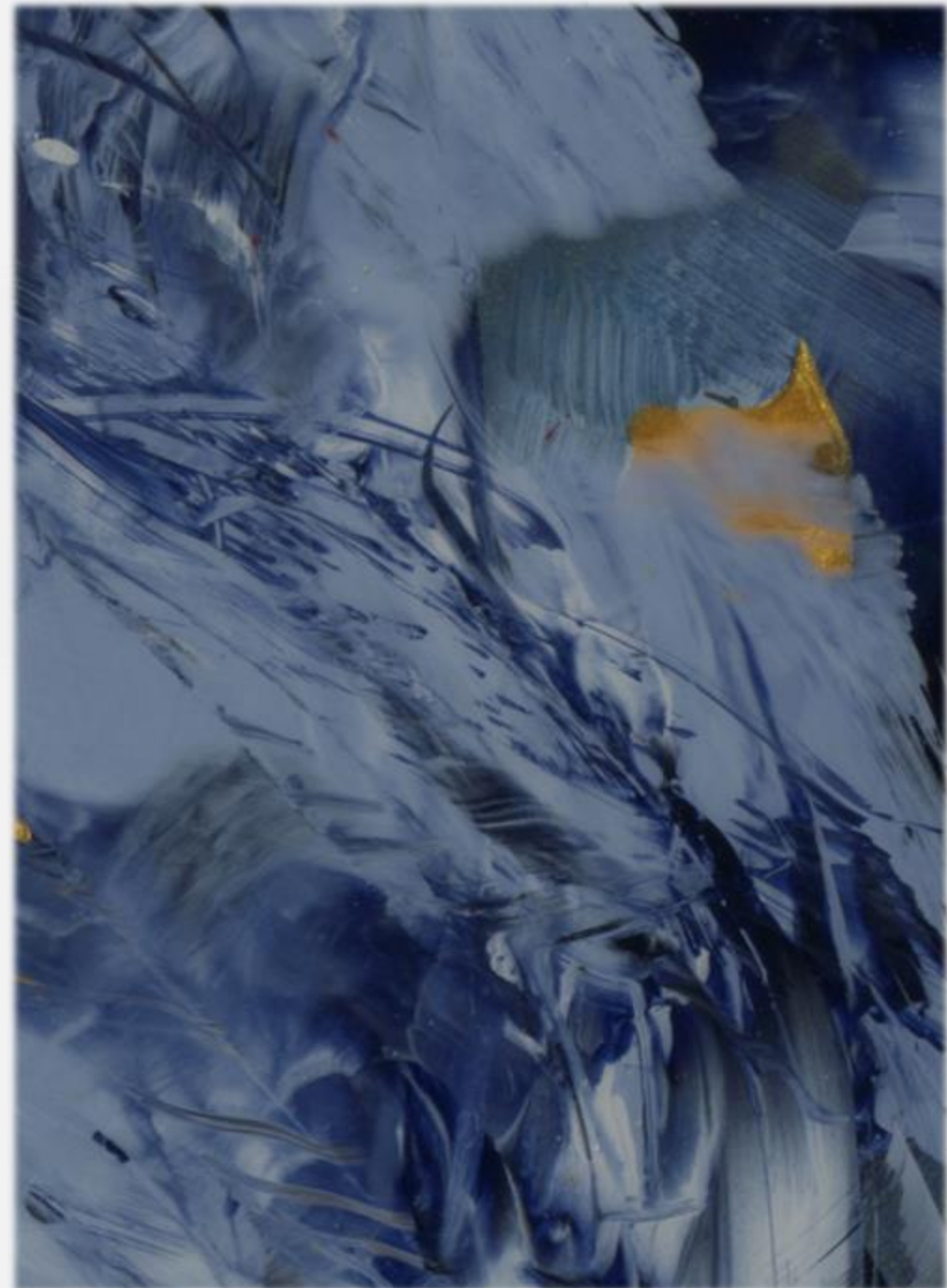
**God who provides our every need,
you have given us countless gifts.
You have welcomed us for all of who we are.
You have showered us with steadfast love.
You have freely given us
eternal life in Christ Jesus.
We do not deserve these gifts.
We take them and squander them.
We continue to trust ourselves
more than we trust you.
We fail to embrace others
as you have embraced us.
Accept our confession.
Be our glory and our strength
for the days to come,
our strength, shield, and deliverer.**



+ DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Part of God's provision for all of us
is a well of forgiveness that never runs dry.

Thanks be to God! Amen.



✦ 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.

Imagine all the people
living life in peace...

John Lennon

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Sacrifice of Isaac
1140-1170
Palatine Chapel
Palermo, Italy

WORD

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

FIRST READING Genesis 22:1-14

The testing of Abraham

¹ After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶ Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. ⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together. ⁹ When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide," as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

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

Second Reading Romans 6:12-23

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. ¹³ No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Slaves of Righteousness

¹⁵ What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted ¹⁸ and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

“O God, Show Mercy to Us” INSERT

1 O God, show mercy to us, and bless us with your grace;
and cause to shine upon us the brightness of your face,
so that your way most holy on earth may soon be known,
and unto every people your saving grace be shown.
Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing;
in every land let praises and songs of gladness ring.

2 For you will judge the peoples in truth and righteousness,
and on the earth all nations will your just rule confess.
Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing.
Then earth in rich abundance to us its fruit will bring.
The Lord our God will bless us; our God will blessing send,
and all the earth will worship to its remotest end.

1 O God, show mer - cy to us, and bless us with your
2 For you will judge the peo - ples in truth and righ - teous -

grace; and cause to shine up - on us the bright - ness of your
ness, and on the earth all na - tions will your just rule con -

face, so that your way most ho - ly on earth may soon be
fess. Let all the peo - ples praise you; let all the na - tions

known, and un - to ev - ery peo - ple your sav - ing grace be
sing. Then earth in rich a - bun - dance to us its fruit will

shown. Let all the peo - ples praise you; let all the na - tions
bring. The Lord our God will bless us; our God will bless - ing

sing; in ev - ery land let prais - es and songs of glad - ness ring.
send, and all the earth will wor - ship to its re - mot - est end.

+ GOSPEL READING Matthew 10:40-42

⁴⁰ “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Sermon



Welcoming Heart
Jan Richardson ©
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+ OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**Generous God,
may our giving provide for our community
the surprise of your love,
just as you provided a ram for Abraham.
Bless our time, talent, and treasure
for your glory and for the good of all.
Amen.**



Sherry Middlemiss-Brown

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

#298 Blue

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty.
here is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.

2 For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We would gladly trust God's word;
And our lives reflect thanksgiving
For the goodness of our Lord.

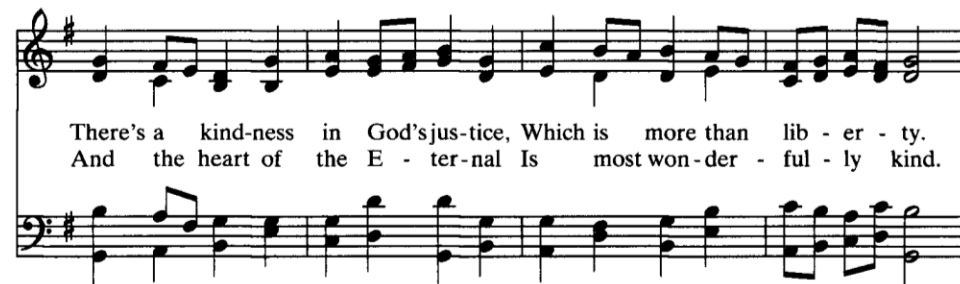
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Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

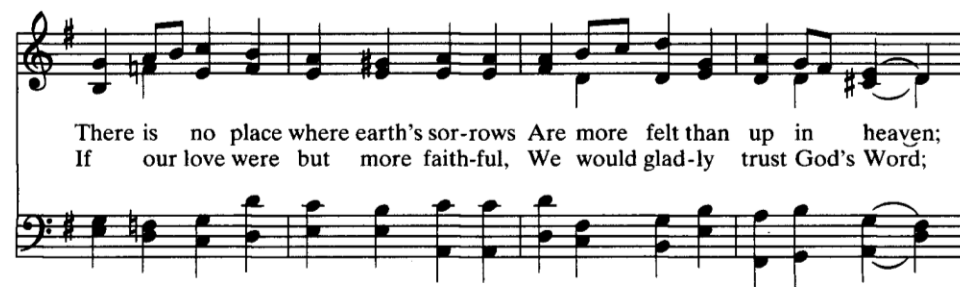
Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen (1855-1933)



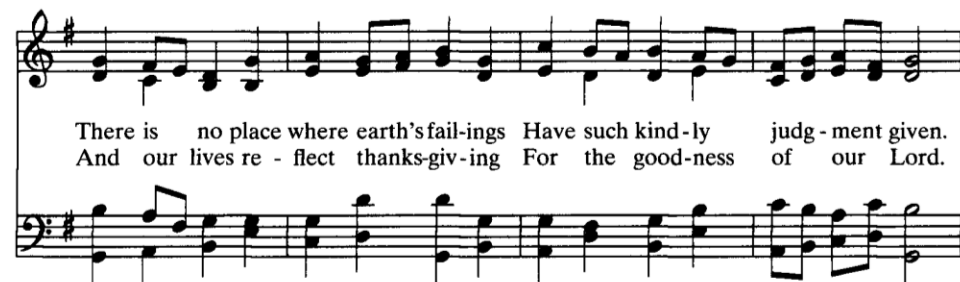
1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the mea-sures of the mind;



There's a kind-ness in God's jus-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



SENDING

Sherry Middlemis-Brown



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

Refrain:
Jesu, Jesu,
Fill us with Your love,
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from You.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,
Silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. (Refrain)

2 Neighbors are rich and poor,
Varied in color and race,
Neighbors are near and far away. (Refrain)

3 These are the ones we should serve,
These are the ones we should love;
All are neighbors to us and You. (Refrain)

4 Loving puts us on our knees,
Serving as though we are slaves,
This is the way we should live with You. (Refrain)

5 Kneel at the feet of our friends,
Silently washing their feet,
This is the way we should live with You. (Refrain)

Ghanaian folk song
Trans. Tom Colvin, 1969

Ghanaian folk melody
Adapt. Tom Colvin, 1963
Arr. Jane Marshall, 1982

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four lines of music. The first line ends with a double bar line and the word 'Fine'. The second line ends with a double bar line and the word 'D.C.'. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The lyrics are: 'Je - su, Je - su, fill us with Your love, Show us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from You. 1. Kneels at the feet of His friends, Si - lent - ly wash - es their 2. Neigh-bors are rich and poor, Var - ied in col - or and 3. These are the ones we should serve, These are the ones we should 4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, Serv - ing as though we are 5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, Si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them. race, Neigh-bors are near and far a - way. love. All are neigh-bors to us and You. slaves, This is the way we should live with You. feet, This is the way we should live with You.'

✦ CHARGE AND BLESSING

Learn the ways of God,
for they are the ways of life.

Trust in Jesus Christ,
for he is the way of God's love.

Live by the power of the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the fullest.

May the Holy Trinity,
who creates, redeems, and sustains,
grant you the grace
of peace, holiness, and eternal life.



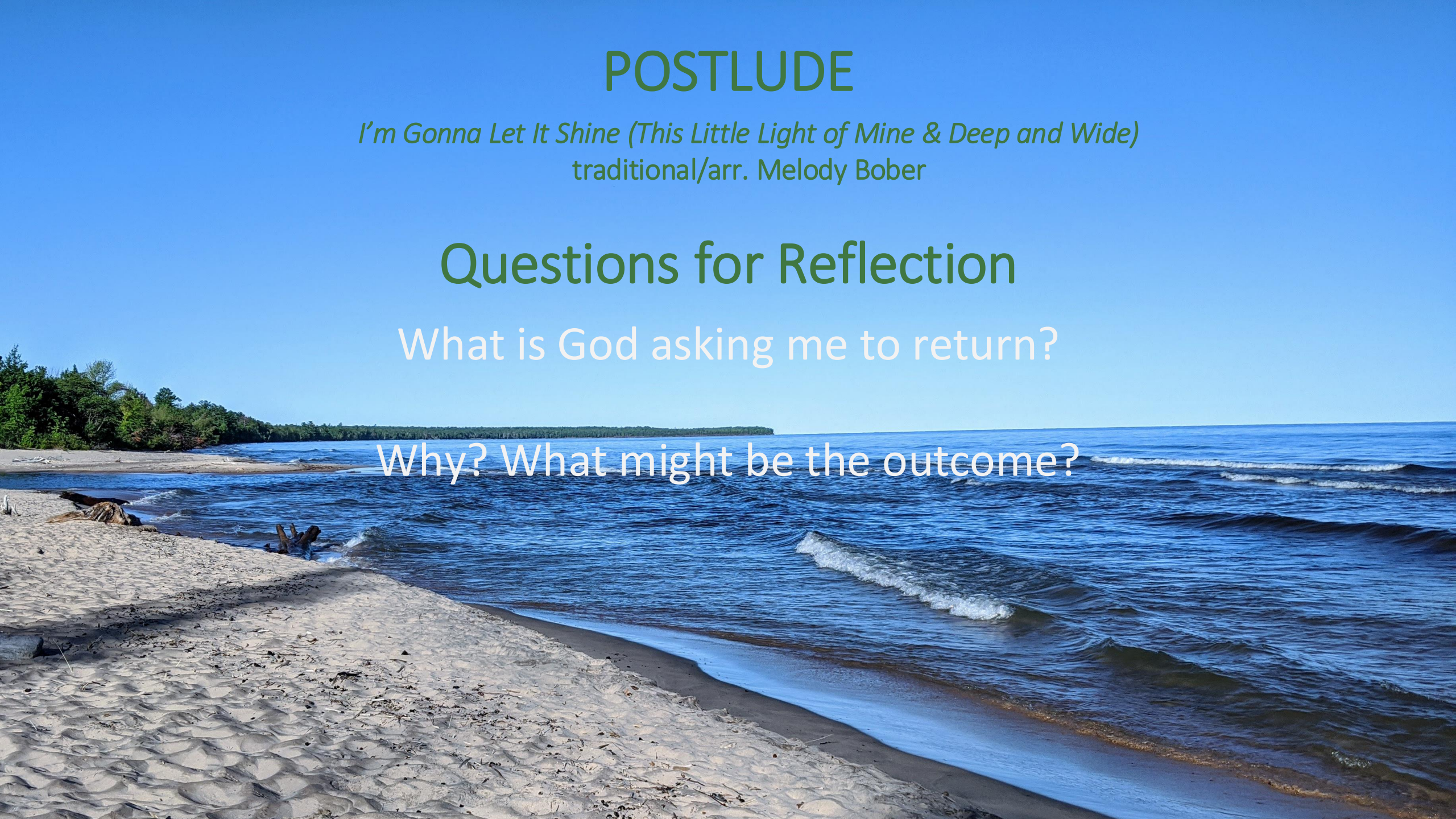
POSTLUDE

I'm Gonna Let It Shine (This Little Light of Mine & Deep and Wide)
traditional/arr. Melody Bober

Questions for Reflection

What is God asking me to return?

Why? What might be the outcome?



Thanks to:

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland
Musician: Susie Byykkonen
Reader: Marla Bonhoff
Prayer Writer: Lois Jambekar
Greeters: Al Eckhart
Coffee: Ann Cambell

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Next week:

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland
Musician: Susie Byykkonen
Reader: Nancy Beyers Sprague
Prayer Writer: Peter Norland
Greeters: Nancy Beyers Sprague and Dianne Sprague
Coffee: Sangja Lee & Biruta Lowther

Next Sunday's Scripture: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67;
Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30



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.