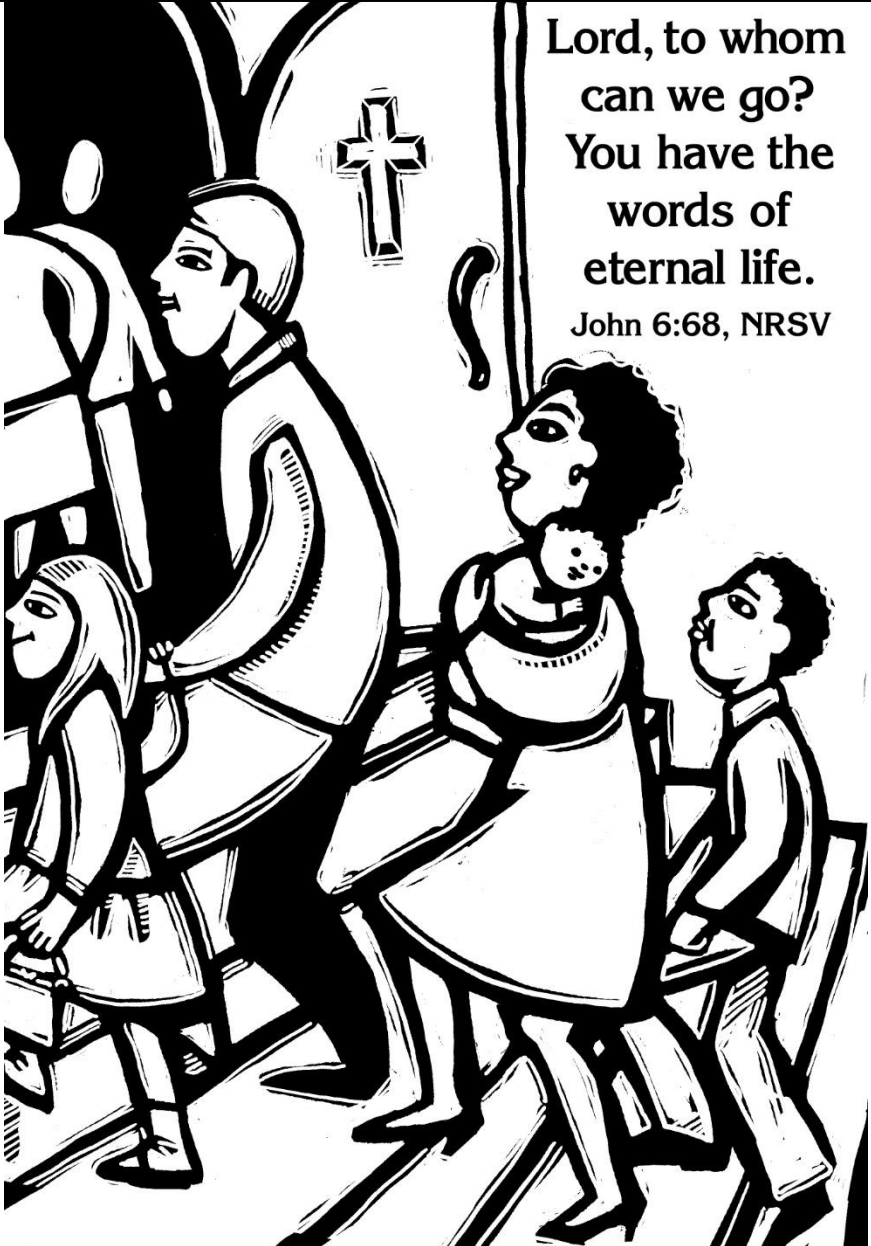


**Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church
419 Bossardsville Road
Stroudsburg, PA**

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 25, 2024



**Lord, to whom
can we go?
You have the
words of
eternal life.**

John 6:68, NRSV

Welcome to Christ Hamilton! Thank you for joining with us in worship in whatever manner you can. This service is also available anytime on Facebook or our website along with a bulletin at www.chrighthamilton.org. Please share in the responses, sing the hymns, and pray the prayers. Call us and connect with us whenever you need. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please know that **all are welcome** at Christ Hamilton! If you are a visitor please feel free to take the welcome folder home with you. We invite you to fill out the card found inside and place it in the plate at the time of the offering. Please note there are also kids kits in the back for the children to utilize during the service. LARGE PRINT bulletins are available and hearing assisting devices, please ask an usher if you would like one.

Today's service: *In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.*

Altar flowers are given in celebration of John and Kathleen Field's 50th anniversary!!!

Altar Flower Delivery: Angela Trauger

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

SONG

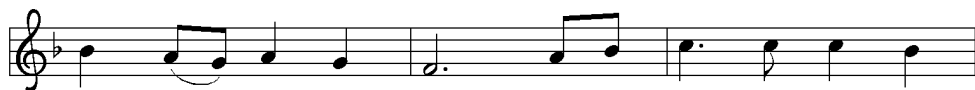
All Are Welcome



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



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



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



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



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



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

GREETING

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

KYRIE

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Minister: Let us pray. . . . Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING

JOSHUA 24:1-2A, 14-18

Reader: A reading from the 24th chapter of Joshua.

¹ Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a} And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴ “Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; **but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.**”

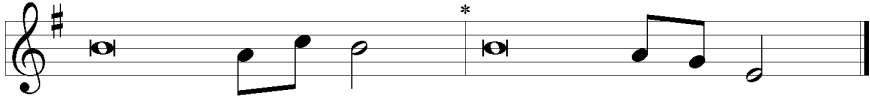
¹⁶ Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷ for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸ and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Sung responsively.

PSALM

Psalm 34:15-22



Cantor: The eyes of the Lord are up- | on the righteous,
and God's ears are open | to their cry.

**All: The face of the Lord is against those | who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.**

Cantor: The righteous cry, and | the Lord hears them
and delivers them from | all their troubles.

**All: The Lord is near to the | brokenhearted
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.**

Cantor: Many are the troubles | of the righteous,
but the Lord delivers them from | every one.

**All: God will keep safe | all their bones;
not one of them | shall be broken.**

Cantor: Evil will bring death | to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.

**All: O Lord, you redeem the life | of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will | not be
punished.**

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

Reader: A reading from the 6th chapter of Ephesians.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and

flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL**John 6:56-69**

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 6th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

SONG

I Am the Bread of Life

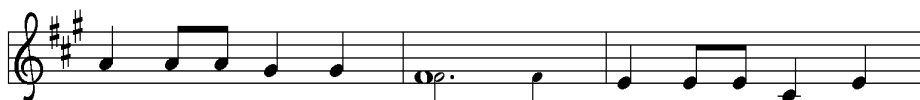
Leader or All



1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less you eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
 5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that . . .



come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man and . . .
 I am the life. If you be -
 you are the Christ, the . . .



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat of this bread, you shall . . live for -
 drink of his blood, and drink of his
 lieve in . . . me, e - ven . . though you
 Son of . . . God, who have . . .



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die, you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to the world. . . .

Refrain

All

“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. Both are in the key of A major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, and an eighth note B4. The piano accompaniment starts with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. The lyrics “And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,” are written below the vocal line.

and I will raise you up on the last day.”

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, and an eighth note B4. The piano accompaniment continues with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. The lyrics “and I will raise you up on the last day.” are written below the vocal line.

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6

Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM

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APOSTLE'S CREED

Minister: Let us confess our faith together.

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers & Blessing of the Backpacks

Minister: God of fresh starts and new beginnings, we bring ourselves,
our big feelings, and our backpacks to you. Place your
blessing upon these backpacks

In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils,
and pointy crayons, and in our hearts, we carry big feelings,
unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations.

There are endless possibilities of what this new year might
bring— of what we might learn, who we might meet, and
who we might become.

God, you are always with us, be with us through it all.
Be with us as we ride the bus. Be with us as we walk.

Be with us as we buckle seat belts, zip-up jackets, and tie shoes.

However we get there, and whatever we wear, bless this journey into something new. For the grown-ups going back to school, be with them too. Thank you for our teachers, helpers, caregivers, and leaders, and for all they do to help us learn and grow. God, who's full of wonder, fill their hearts and bless their hands.

All: Amen

Assisting Minister: With you O God, every transition and new start is a reminder of your goodness, for you are always creating fresh, amazing things in us and through us. Though we are sad about the summer ending, we are grateful for this school year. We appreciate the opportunity to learn and grow, knowing it is one of the biggest privileges we have. With thanks and love, we now offer everything we are to you, asking for your blessing.

Liz: We pray for students of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. We pray for our hearts and all they hold—excitement and nervousness, disappointment, and hope. We give you all our loves and fears. We pray for steady self-esteem and deepening resilience.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and hear our prayers.

Deb: We pray for minds, that they will expand in wonder and celebration, learning not just from the books studied but the people beside us. Open our minds with a willingness to be changed in unexpected ways.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and hear our prayers.

Minister: We pray for hands that they will reach out to help and to welcome and care. Bless Ark 2 staff and all those teaching at Christ Hamilton, give them patience and dedication as they grip pencils and type on keyboards, swish paint brushes and clap in song.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and hear our prayers.

Assisting Minister: We pray for mouths, that they will speak words bringing life and connection. Mouths that honor the dignity and belovedness of all. Remind us to open our mouths for deep belly breaths when we're feeling anxious or afraid.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and hear our prayers.

Deb: We pray for feet, that they will move toward those different from us and help others in safe ways. Plant feet next to those who feel alone, and bless our steps down hallways and sidewalks. We know you are with us wherever our feet go or stay.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and hear our prayers.

Assisting Minister: We pray for eyes, that they may see ourselves and others with compassion. Point our eyes toward those who are forgotten or struggling..

ALL: Loving God, hold us and hear our prayers.

Liz: We pray for ears, that they will genuinely listen to all voices, especially those that haven't been listened to much. When things get noisy, help us listen extra carefully for your voice.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and hear our prayers.

Deb: We say a special prayer for parents, as the start of a new school year is always another leap of faith. Wrap them with your reassuring love as they entrust their children and trust in you. When questions remain unanswered, bless them with peace and the promise you are right there with their child, whether heading to preschool or driving to college.

ALL: Loving God, hold us and hear our prayers.

Minister: We also pray now for teachers, staff and administrators. Bless these faithful servants with courage and confidence, knowing you are in their classroom with a steady hand on their shoulder. Give them peace, patience, and balance in their lives.

**ALL: We pray for health and wholeness,
fun and growth,
surprise and amazement,
for this school year ahead,
knowing you will hold us all the way through. Amen**

PEACE

Assisting Minister: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

The Peace is shared with one another.

Offering

Offertory

Leader

All

All who are thirst - y, come to the wa-ters. All who are hun - gry,
come here and eat. All who are thirst - y, come to the wa-ters.
There's e - nough for all.

All who are thirst - y,

The musical score is written for a Leader and an All group. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'All who are thirst - y, come to the wa-ters. All who are hun - gry, come here and eat. All who are thirst - y, come to the wa-ters. There's e - nough for all. All who are thirst - y,'. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . Jesus, Bread of life,

**All: You have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.**

**Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.**

**Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Minister: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, Almighty and Merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
you pour out your Spirit,
uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses
of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Minister: You are indeed Holy, Almighty and Merciful God.

You are most Holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
 so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
 but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
 to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things
 for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

Minister: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Communion

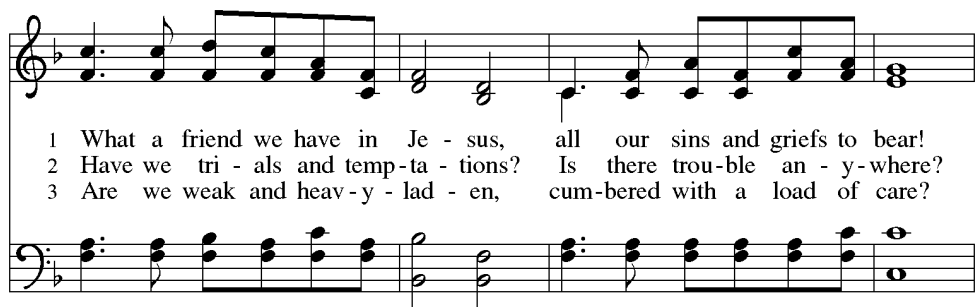
We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Those not communing are invited to come forward for a blessing. For those who would prefer not to have wine, pre-filled glasses of grape juice are available in the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the Pastor.

Please come forward by way of the right aisle, receive the bread from the pastor and move to the chalice. Return by way of the left hand aisle as you return to your seat.

Minister: The body of Christ given for you.

Communion Assistant: The blood of Christ shed for you.

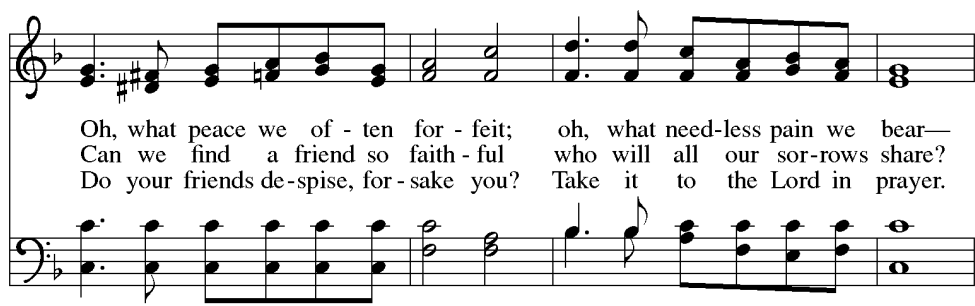
What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

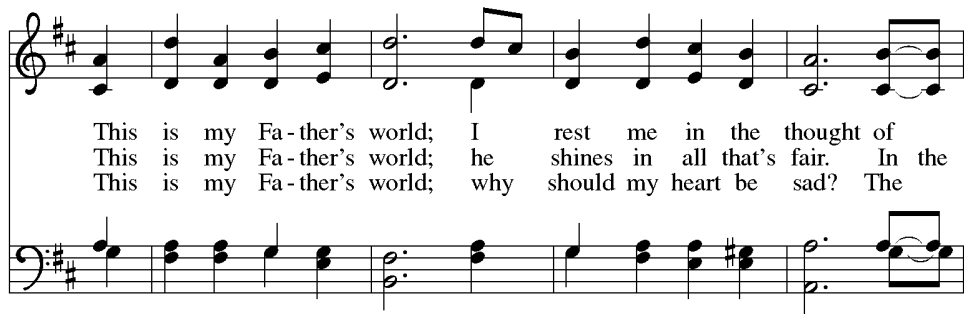
This Is My Father's World



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

COMMUNION BLESSING

Minister: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER

Assisting Minister: We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have
refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life.
In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith
toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the
sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

BLESSING

Minister: 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.

All: Amen.

SONG

Lead On, O King Eternal!

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence - forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
 for glad - ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;
 for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums,
 Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
 but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
 the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Dismissal

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Worship Leaders

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Minister: | Rev. Steven C. Claycomb |
| Organist: | Beth McElroy |
| Lector: | Janet Catina |
| Lay Assistant: | Sue Butz |
| Greeters: | Deb & Tom Huber |
| Choir Director: | Tassy Gilbert |
| Announcements: | Amanda Balas, Office Administrator |
| Videographer: | Steve Metzgar, Craig & Anson Cassidy |

Please Remember in Prayer: Sandy H., Jim, Gloria, Don, Jackie and Dumitru. **If you, or someone you know has been hospitalized or needs a pastoral visit please let the office know 570-992-4085.**

Service will remain at 10am in an overwhelming three to one margin the congregation voted to keep Sunday services at 10am.

A First communion retreat for anyone entering grades 3 and up will be held on Saturday, November 9th from 9am-12pm in the Lighthouse. First Communion will be held during the service on November 10th. If you are interested in having your child receive first communion please call the church office. 570-992-4085.

Sponsor-A-Bill—thanks to all who have participated by grabbing a flower off the board in the serving area and donating towards one of our many bills.

Altar Flower deliverers needed! If you would like to deliver flowers to shut-ins and senior homes, please contact the office 570-992-408

We will NO LONGER be accepting aluminum cans for recycling. Please recycle cans through your recycling company.

Children's Church begins Sept. 15! Children can be dropped off in Lighthouse room A before the 10am service and will return to the service during the sharing of the peace. Any students ages pre-K through 5th are invited to attend!

Adult Sunday School begins Sept. 15th in Lighthouse room G from 9am to 9:45. We will be discussing the lessons and gospel reading for that days worship service.