

Morning Worship ~ September 13, 2020

Welcome to Gathering Sunday! It is good to be here together on Zoom and in person as we gather for worship this morning!

Please be mindful of social distancing and please keep your mask on while you are in the Sanctuary. While we gather this morning in person, there are a few things you will notice that will be different; Pastor Kendra will go over these during the announcement time, also:

During the responsive readings, we ask that you respond softly and not project your voices.

For communion, if you did not receive a pre-packaged communion cup, please let one of the Deacons know and we will get one for you. During Communion, for the bread, you will peel back the first layer and take the wafer and then for the cup, peel back the second foil layer for the juice. Your mask can be off when you take communion, however please place your mask back on immediately after.

We also ask that you take your communion cups and any paper or trash with you as you leave the sanctuary. There is a recycling box for the liturgy page and a trash can for the cups and any tissues you might need to dispose of.

Welcome back to Andrea Shaut who is providing us with the prelude, postlude and reflective music during this morning's service.

Please note: after today's worship service, the Sanctuary will be closed the entire week. There will be a cleaning period on Wednesdays and cleaning and disinfecting on Saturday prior to Sunday's worship.

*Be sure to check the Fair Street Weekly for updates and announcements for the week!

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God Gathers the Church

GATHERING AND WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rise up in heart and mind to bless God's holy name.

Open your arms and your souls to receive the covenant.

We are here to praise God and to receive mercy.

We have come in response to God's steadfast love.

God welcomes you and offers renewal.

Compassion and competence are God's gifts to you.

God is merciful, gracious, and slow to anger.

God protects us and allows us to lie down in safety.

God calls you to use your gifts for the sake of justice.

God seeks to equip you here to make a difference.

God raises us up as followers of Jesus.

God equips us as ministers of the new covenant.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CALL TO AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, so many things are important to us that we cannot keep track of all of them. So many activities fill our calendars that we often have no time to meditate and pray. You become to us a compartment of life rather than the whole of it. We do not sense your embrace because we have not allowed you to be the center of our lives. We hear Christ's call to discipleship, but we do not want to associate with the friends Jesus chose. We hesitate to receive the newness you offer. O God, forgive us, heal us, recreate us, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

GUIDE FOR GRATEFUL LIVING

Matthew 22:37:40

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

God's Word Is Proclaimed

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE FOR TODAY: Psalm 103: 1-13

Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:
The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

Rev. Kendra VanHouten

The Church Responds to God

SHARING IN COMMUNION TOGETHER

THE SHARING OF THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE WITH OUR GIFTS: While the social distancing makes it a challenge to worship in person, and serve alongside one another, ministry is still happening. We ask that you consider either mailing in your offering contribution or sending it online through our secure website: <https://fairstreetreformedchurch.org/>, and click on the [support us](#) page. Your offering supports the work and ministry of the church as we continue to seek for ways in which we can love our neighbor, with no exceptions, even from a distance.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)*

BENEDICTION