

Sunday Worship ~ September 17, 2023

Join on zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84241097791>

Meeting ID: 842 4109 7791

God Gathers the Church

GATHERING MUSIC

WORDS OF WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

As we are called into worship today,
it is sobering to remember that when
God appeared on earth in the person of Jesus,
most of the world did not recognize him
and therefore did not worship him.
Today we ask for the faith that will open our eyes
to see Jesus for who he is,
that we might worship him in truth.

People of God, behold and see your God!

We open our eyes to see God's glory.

We open our ears to hear God's wisdom.

We open our hands to offer God gifts.

We open our mouths to sing praise to God.

We open our hearts to offer him our love.

As we gather in worship, let us approach the throne
with confidence as together we proclaim

He is Lord!

***OPENING HYMN: #60 "I Will Sing of the Mercies"**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: "BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS!"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, you come to us, but we do not recognize you; you call, but we do not follow;
you command, but we do not obey,
you bless us, but we do not thank you.

Please forgive and help us.

Lord, you accept us, but we do not accept others;
you forgive us, but we do not forgive those who wrong us; you love us, but we do not
love our neighbors.

Please forgive and help us.

(continued on next page)

(Prayer of Confession continued...)

Lord, you showed us how to carry out your mission,
but we still insist on our own;
you identified yourself with outcasts, the needy, and the poor, but we do not bother to
find out what is happening to them; you suffered and died for the sake of all,
but we do not give up our comfortable lives.

**Please forgive and help us,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

GUIDE FOR GRATEFUL LIVING

Matthew 28:18-20

“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

***GLORIA PATRI**

God’s Word Is Proclaimed

***PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

SCRIPTURE READING: James 1:19-27

*This is the Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.***

***HYMN OF PREPARATION:** #580 “We Are Called to Be God’s People”

Sermon: “Why we worship the way we do: We Respond”

Rev. Kendra VanHouten

The Church Responds to God

THE SHARING OF THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE

Invitation and Offering

**DOXOLOGY*

**Prayer of Blessing*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN:** #574 “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

**Indicates to please stand as you are able in body or in spirit.*

** Liturgy for today is from the Worship Sourcebook*