



Pentecost 15

September 13, 2020

As we gather for worship we extend a warm welcome to all!

May all who share in this service be blessed.

*Join us for Worship in Wolfe Park next Sunday
at 6 PM or Monday for the virtual recorded worship.*

***MAY YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE NEVER ALONE.
TO GOD BE THE GLORY!***



GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PROCLAIMING GOD'S PRESENCE AND OUR NEED FOR GOD

P: Let us come into the light of God, confessing our need for God's touch and direction in our lives. Holy and faithful God,

C: **We so often choose our own way instead of yours.
We have spoken in ways that hurt others,
We have not always reached out into Your world with love.
We are often blind to the needs of our neighbors.
Search us deeply and create us anew.
Free us to follow your way of life.**

(silence for reflection)

P: Our Lord loves us, celebrates us and wants us to bless the world. Receive God's touch of love, hope and forgiveness. May we be a reflection of God's love for all the world to see. **Amen**

GATHERING SONG

Lord, Whose Love In Humble Service

*Lord whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need
who upon the cross, for saken, worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice a lone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose every gift which you impart.*

*Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live*

PRAYER

P: Gracious Lord, as we gather as your people, we remember your blessings.

C: **As we share your Word, we remember your love and hope for each of us.**

As we share your Spirit, we remember that you direct us daily to love and be your light to the world. Especially in this time of pandemic, racial inequity, joblessness and financial uncertainty; may we be your people of blessing and hope in our homes, neighborhoods and world. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 14:1-4;10-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

PREPARATION FOR THE GOOD NEWS

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.



Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

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GOSPEL/WORDS OF JESUS

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you have not had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

KID'S TIME & BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

THIS BIG LIGHT OF MINE

*This BIG light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
This BIG light of mine
I'm going to let it shine*

*This BIG light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

MESSAGE

Pastor Heidi Zimdars

Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying

*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

PRAYERS

P: Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our world.

L: Holy One, the whole earth is yours. Where there is fire, bring cool air and new growth. Where there is flooding, bring abatement. Where there is drought, bring rain. Inspire us to care for what you have provided. Lord of Creation, **hear us.**

L: Holy One, we have created divisions you will not own. In places of conflict, raise up leaders who work to develop lasting peace and reconciliation. Protect those at risk and all those who serve us. Lord of Justice, **hear us.**

P: Holy One, you care for those who are harassed and helpless. Protect and defend those who are abused. Feed all who hunger. Empower all whose voices go unheard, and help us respond to the pressing needs of our neighbors. Heal those who are sick. Comfort those who grieve. Lord of Healing and Hope, **hear us.**

L: L: Holy One, you challenge us to justice and new life. To reach beyond the comfort of our lives. Prepare us to share your unconditional love, that we might discover new ways of living. Be with us as we share our love and hope in the smallest acts of kindness. Lord of Love for All People, **hear us.**

M: L: Holy One, we thank you for Vista Lutheran. Bless us as we grow our staff for outreach into the community. We especially thank you for the gift of Pastor Dan. We share your light and love, and your Spirit leads us. Lord of Light, **hear us.**

L: Remind us that you are here to be our strength and meet our needs, **we are never alone. You walk beside us and attend to all of our needs.** Always Present Lord, **hear us.**

P: Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words. **Amen.**

INSTALLATION OF PASTOR DAN NELSON

CONTINUING MINISTRIES AND OUTREACH AT VISTA LUTHERAN STAYING CONNECTED

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**



WE ARE AN OFFERING

*We lift our voice, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to You; we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives they are Yours; we are an offering.*

*All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,
we give to You, we give to You.*

*We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to You;
we are an offering, we are an offering.*

**All are welcome at the Lord's table, where by God's grace we are fed,
made whole, and strengthened to live as God's people of love.**

Please join us!

*Today we receive communion together after the Lord's Prayer.
You will be instructed when to eat and drink.*



CHRIST'S WORDS OF INVITATION

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 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, forever and ever. Amen**

WE SHARE THE MEAL

BLESSING OF THE MEAL

SENDING SONG

Lead Me, Guide Me

Refrain

*Lead me, guide me, along the way;
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

*I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain*

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BLESSING OF COMMUNITY

DISMISSAL

Go in Peace. Share your love. Bless God's World. I will, Thanks be to God!

SENDING MUSIC