

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

MINISTRY OF RECONCILING SUNDAY



SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

10 A.M.

INTRODUCTION

Reconciling in Christ Sunday is an annual worship celebration created to share in the commitment our organization and partnering faith communities have in the ongoing work of welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for LGBTQIA+ people in the life of the church.

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

P As we begin our worship, we are mindful that as we gather here, we are on the historic lands of the Native peoples. May we honor this land. May we remember that the oppression of Native peoples is not a relic of the past but continues today. Through God's Spirit, we repent and walk forward together, changing systems that discriminate as we live into authentic diversity and healing.



+ GATHERING +

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P God of boundless compassion, Help us to admit that we have been wrong. Give us the word the world cannot. Tell us again that you believe in us so we can love ourselves as you do.

C Amen.

P We proclaim publicly for the ways we have rejected God's love and God's image of us.

Silence for reflection.

P For historical acts of injustice and oppression perpetuated against Aboriginal communities, And Black, Japanese, and Chinese communities in this abundant land of the First Nations,

C Forgive us, merciful God.

P For the times we have failed to recognize racism and bigotry in ourselves, in our church, and in our society, and the times we have failed to take action,

C Forgive us, long-suffering God.

P For complicity in systems of privilege and power over those whose skin color, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or creed differ in some way, even today,

C Forgive us, compassionate God.

P Grant us courage never to let a racist joke or bigoted comment pass in our hearing, But to dare to insist on equitable treatment of all persons and groups, including ourselves, if oppressed, even at the risk of being unpopular or misunderstood.

C We beseech you, God of justice.

P Grant us patience to endure periods without action, persistence in resisting the evil of oppression, and faithfulness in working toward racial and social justice among your people, in the church, and in the world.

C We beseech you, God of hope.

P Siblings in Christ,
the truth is that God loves you deeply and without end. This forgiveness is a gift; we don't do this on our own. We are bound to the Holy Spirit, who accompanies us on this journey of reconciliation in Christ. Know and believe you are forgiven.
Know and trust that God is with you as you adjust and make amends, As you now know what you did not know before And that you have been made whole in the name of the Creator, and of the Redeemer, ✠ and the Sanctifier,

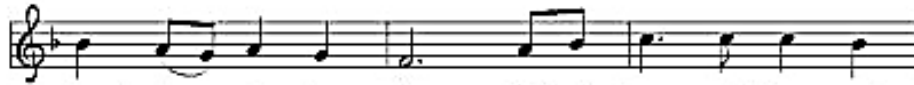
C Amen.



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
 strung - 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.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO DAKS, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3338.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GREETING

P The grace of the One who redeemed and redeems us from binaries, the love, mercy, and justice of the One who created all beyond our wildest dreams and called it all GOOD, and the wisdom of the One who challenges us to go and do likewise be with you all.

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

3

If God were an ea - gle, he'd
If God were the wind, she'd run
If God were a moun - tain, a
God's more than a moun - tain, an

7

swoop through the trees. He'd flex all his fea - thers to
rings 'round the clouds. She'd swirl 'round the world just ca -
tow - er of stone, it would reach to the hea - vens, al -
ea - gle, the wind. God stretch - es be - yond where our

11

catch the least breeze. And peo - ple would shout,
ress - ing the crowds. And peo - ple would sigh,
might - y, a lone. And peo - ple would cry,
hymns of praise end. Al - might - y and yet

15

"Oh, what beau - ty in flight!" If God were an ea - gle, so
"Oh, what gen - tle - ness there!" If God were the wind, whis - pering
"Oh, what strength we can feel!" If God were a moun - tain, a
del - i - cate and light, God came in the form of a

19

re - gal, so right. If God were an ea - gle, so
in eve - ry - where. If God were the wind, whis - pering
pow - er so real. If God were a moun - tain, a
ba - by one night, and that is the rea - son our

re - gal, so right.
in eve - ry - where.
pow - er so real.
hearts burn so bright.

PRAYER OF THE DAY



B Let us pray.

Holy and Living God, we open to you this day. May peace flow and let justice roll down like an ever-flowing stream. Open our eyes and help us see that no one is outside your love; outside our love. Remind us that we are not alone thanks to your abiding presence and the ministry of ReconcilingWorks and the Reconciling in Christ program, through Jesus Christ, the free gift of grace.

C **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

YOUNG WORSHIPPER'S MESSAGE



+ WORD +

FIRST READING FIRST READING: Amos 5:21-24

Inclusive Bible Translation with bolded parts read responsively.

Reader I despise and reject your feasts! I am not appeased by your solemn assemblies!.

C **When you offer me burnt offerings, I reject your oblations, and refuse to look at your sacrifices of fattened cattle!**

R Spare me the racket of your chanting! Relieve me of the strumming of your harps!

C **Instead, let justice flow like a river, and righteousness flow like an unfailing stream.**

R The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8: 31-39

Inclusive Bible Translation with bolded parts read responsively.

R What should be our response? Simply this: “If God is for us, who can be against us?” Since God did not spare the Only Begotten but gave Christ up for the sake of us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that God will freely give us everything. Who will bring a charge against God’s chosen ones? Since God is the One who justifies, who has the power to condemn? Only Christ Jesus, who died—or rather, was raised—and sits at the right hand of God, and who now intercedes for us! What will separate us from the love of Christ? Trouble? Calamity? Persecution? Hunger? Nakedness? Danger? Violence?

As scripture says, “For your sake, we’re being killed all day long; we’re looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered.” Yet in all this, we are more than conquerors because of God who has loved us.

C For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, neither heights nor depths—nor anything else in all creation—will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Savior.

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 169



Luke 10:25-37

P The holy gospel according to Luke, the tenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

A SLY SCROLL KEEPER SETS A TRAP

A scroll keeper, one who was skilled in his knowledge of tribal law, came to Creator Sets Free (Jesus) to test him and trap him in his words. “Wisdomkeeper,” he said. “What path must I walk to have the life of the world to come that never fades away, full of beauty and harmony?” He answered him, “What is written in our tribal law about this? Tell me, how do you see it?” The scroll keeper spoke from the words of the law, “You must love the Great Spirit from deep within, with the strength of your arms, the thoughts of your mind, and the courage of your heart, and you must love your fellow human beings in the same way you love yourselves.” “You have answered well,” Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said back to him. “If you walk this path, you will live.” But the scroll keeper, wanting to look good to others, asked him, “Who are my fellow human beings?”

HE TURNS THE TRAP WITH A STORY

Creator Sets Free (Jesus) answered him with a story. “There was a man walking the road from Village of Peace (Jerusalem) to Moon Village (Jericho). On the way, he was attacked by thieves, who beat him, stripped him of his clothes, and left him bleeding to death. “Now it happened that a holy man was on the same road, not far behind. When he saw the man, he went around him on the other side of the road. Not far behind him was another man, also from the tribe holy men are chosen from. When he saw the wounded man, he did the same thing as the holy man. “Then a man from High Place (Samaria), who was also walking the road, saw the wounded man. Even though he was not a Tribal Member but a mixed blood despised by the tribal people, he felt pity for the man. He helped him by pouring good medicine on his wounds and wrapping them in a cloth. He put the man on his own animal and took him to a lodging house to care for him. “The next day, when the man of High Place (Samaria) was leaving, he gave from his own money pouch to the keeper of the lodging house. ‘Use this to care for him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will give you anything more that is needed.’” Creator Sets Free (Jesus) then looked at the scroll keeper and said, “Which one of these three acted as a fellow human being to the man who was attacked by the thieves?” The scrollkeeper answered, “The one who had pity on him.” “Go,” Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said, “and walk in the same way.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

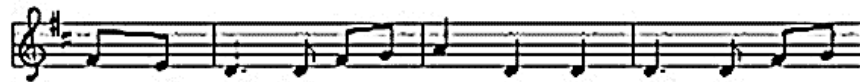
C Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

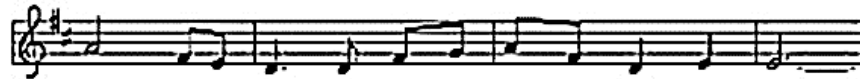
SERMON *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

The assembly stands.

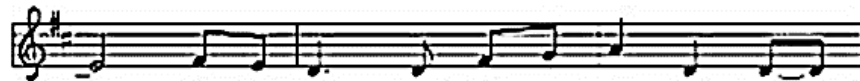
HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 1038 *God, We Gather as Your People*



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



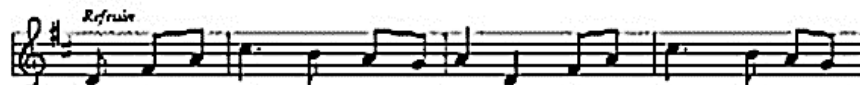
bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



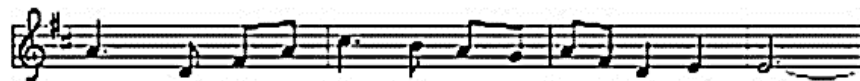
Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be han - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



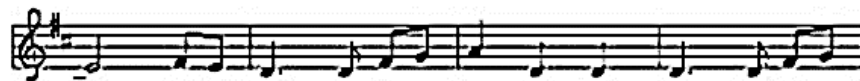
trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



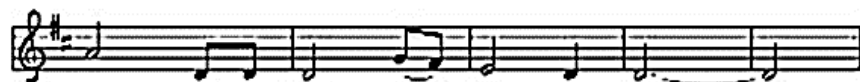
Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lehman, b. 1981
Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lehman
Text and music: © 2007 Welcome Song Music, written, Ansgar Fjellera

APOSTLES' CREED

A Let us profess our faith:

C We believe in one God, the Architect and Guardian, who, in the beginning, breathed life into the void, sprouting all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in Jesus Christ, that in order to reconcile the cosmos, this God sent a piece of God's own self to be born human as kin to us all. And who, at the hands of political tyranny, was killed. He rose again to new life in love to return the world to God.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is one with the Creator and Savior. She is our guide and wisdom. She pours her spirit into apostles, prophets, teachers, healers, and listeners. We believe in the uniting of all Christians into the one body of Christ, And we believe in our return to God at the end. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P God, we hold on to inherited prejudices that shadow our beliefs, to particular traits in others that rub us the wrong way, keeping compassion from softening our hearts, and those who have wronged or kept us from believing in God's overflowing grace. Now, slowly open your hands, letting go of the tension, and imagine that cool water is flowing into and over them. In this moment, we open the doors of our lives to the call of our Creator, the God of all people, who invites us to become more than we can ask or imagine.

A moment of silence is kept for reflection.

A We give thanks for pastors, deacons, bishops, and church leaders who do their best to live out the loving and welcoming community in Jesus Christ. May they be bold in their call to radical hospitality, inclusion, and the work of justice of all God's diversity, and may we do our diligence in calling them to deeper and more meaningful justice they might not see.

A We give thanks for ReconcilingWorks' 50 years of ministry and all the Reconciling in Christ partners. May their ministry with their members, communities, and the larger Church be a mighty force of justice rolling down like an ever-flowing stream.

We give thanks for our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, non-binary, pansexual, queer/questioning, asexual, Black, Brown, Indigenous, People of Color in Christ, and the gifts they are to our church and society. May our churches be bold and prophetic in the ways we live out our welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy with and for our siblings. May all know that in their truest, fullest most authentic selves, they are perfectly formed and perfectly loved as God created them to be. God of inclusion,

C Hear our prayer.

A We remember and pray for those suffering discrimination, fear, and violence at the hands of oppressive regimes; may systems of such oppression be dismantled and new systems be built where all of God's Beloved are treated with dignity and respect.

We remember and pray for those whose lives have been lost to violence and hate; may we be peacemakers through our words, actions, and advocacy. We remember and pray for those suffering economic hardship and insecurity in basic needs due to unjust systems of oppression; may abundance be shared. God of justice,

C Hear our prayer.

Other intercessions may be offered at this time.

A People of God, what else do we pray for this day?

Silence is kept for people to lift up additional prayers aloud or in silence.

A We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident that you will turn to us and be gracious to us as you always do to those who love your name.

C Amen.

PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.



+ MEAL +

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

ANTHEM *"A Place at the Table" -Murray/True*

For ev'ryone born, a place at the table,
for ev'ryone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for ev'ryone born, a star overhead.

(Refrain)

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy!

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong. (Refrain)

For ev'ryone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for ev'ryone born, the right to be free. (Refrain)

For all those who love, a place at the table,
To wed whom they choose while dear ones applaud,
The freedom to be the gender within them,
For all those who love are children of God.* (Refrain)

**Special thanks to Dave Subrweir for writing the lyrics to the last verse*

We stand and sing as the collection and the gifts are brought forward

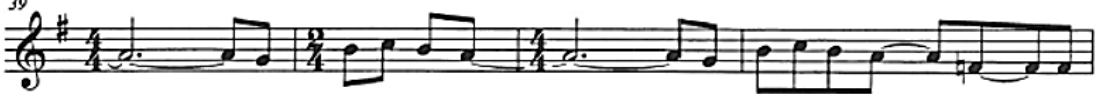
OFFERING HYMN

I reach in my pock - et___ to

6


34


 turn my days o - ver to you be cause what - ev - er I have,


39

 what - ev - er I have, what - ev - er I have, Lord, is


43

 yours. And now down the aisle comes a

48

 gift like no oth - er. The bread and the wine make me free. The best gift of

52

 yours is the son we a - dore. The on - ly gift I have is

57

 me. Take me. What - ev - er I have, what - ev - er I have,

62

 what - ev - er I have, Lord, is yours.

OFFERING PRAYER

A For the gift of unconditional love,

C We give you thanks.

A For the way in which these offerings will become gifts of love embodied,

C We give you thanks.

A For the gift of this community bound and working together,

C We give you thanks.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: All:
May the peace of the Lord embrace us. May the

9 Leader:
love of the Lord light our way. We lift our song

14 All: Leader:
high! We praise the God who gave us life. Hear, Lord,

18 *faster* All:
as we sing! Sing our praise to God on high.

27
Sing out! Sing out for joy! Sing so loud we'll drown out war.

31
Sing of peace forever more. Sing our praise to God. A-men.

35
Sing our praise to God. Sing our praise to God. A-men.

39
Sing our praise to God. A - men. A - men. A - men. A -

44
men. A - men. A - men. A - men!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, just, and merciful God. New birth for creation broke forth upon us in Jesus. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. In these acts of love and justice, we see the birth of our call as church to let the waters of justice roll, knowing we have been delivered from death through a covenant of water and Spirit.

In this moment, we remember all who suffer in our day and imagine how Jesus would respond to them. In this silence, I invite you to call to mind and heart, remembering to God the people and places, known and unknown, that need our prayers that so desperately need a place at our table of love.

Just as he said that last night with his disciples, Jesus says to us, "Come, gather around my friends." This common bread at our table is much more than it seems. This is the brokenness of the world, and I feel it as my body. Whenever there is suffering, I suffer with you. I am broken for you.

This common cup at our table is much than it seems. The blood of innocent ones is too often shed at the hands of oppressors. Whenever there is suffering, I suffer with you. I am poured out for you.

We proclaim the truth:

Death is part of life.

C Christ has died.

P But death will not have the last word.

C Christ has risen!

P And suffering will end.

C Christ will come again...

P ...and again and again, every time suffering is alleviated, comfort is given, food is offered, hope is restored.

P I invite you to connect with the people around you, a hand on a shoulder, holding hands, whatever is comfortable for you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this body gathered here and on our union with each other and with these gifts of bread and cup. May we become your body for the sake of a world where justice rolls down like an ever-flowing stream.

**C All praise to God, Creator of Love!
All praise to Jesus, Love Incarnate!
All praise to Spirit, Love In Action!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

C Our Creator in heaven, let your name be sanctified. Let your realm come. Let your will happen in heaven and also upon earth. Give to us today our nourishment that is necessary for life and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Do not ever carry us into testing situations but rescue us from the evil one. For yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P God knows what you need. Come and receive it; be inspired to offer it to the world!
Everyone is welcome at the table of God.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

As the ushers direct you, come to the altar using the side aisles and return to your seat via the central aisle. The assisting ministers offer both the common cup (wine) and a pouring cup (wine or grape juice). If you prefer to receive the wine or juice in an individual glass, take one from the tray as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the rail. Wheat-free wafers are available--simply tell the pastor.

COMMUNION HYMN

Impartial, Compassionate God of all Lives

1. Im - par - tial, com - pass - ion - ate God of all lives,
 2. Un - ho - ly, un - just - i - fied fear we in - cite,
 3. Cre - a - tor of beau - ty, we stand not in pride,
 4. Our hope is your free - dom, for both great and small,
 5. All hon - or - we give you, O help us to see,

in Christ you have shown us your love ac - tual - ized,
 when we shun our neigh - bors yet cling to our rights.
 we do not as - sume you will stay on our side.
 to strive for per - fec - tion and know all means all.
 your chil - dren are wor - thy to claim vic - to - ry.

in - car - nate and weak in the arms of the poor,
 Your chil - dren still wan - der the streets left in pain,
 For yours is the sa - cred, un - tar - nished by sin,
 We chal - lenge and quest - ion, each law with - out grace,
 And so let our ac - tions flow out of our praise,

de - stroy - ing all sys - tems that keep closed the door.
 we pass laws a - gainst them to prove our dis - dain.
 a re - fuge for out - casts that all may come in.
 af - firm - ing the im - age of Christ on each face.
 to seek trans - for - ma - tion, your Kin - dom to raise.

COMMUNION HYMN

Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us

Unison F Dm B♭ B♭/C

1 Je - sus, you have tru - ly called us. Still, to - day, we hear your
 2 Je - sus, save us from poor choic - es. Ha-tred, run - ning like a
 3 Je - sus, save us from our weak - ness, from de - ceit and from de -

F F F/E Dm Dm/C B♭ B♭/C

voice. Lead us on - ward, lead us up - ward, till all peo - ple can re -
 thread through the fab - ric of our his - t'ry, mars our faith and leaves us
 spair. Move us on to new cre - a - tion in a world that's free and

F Refrain Am Am/C Dm Dm/C B♭

joice.
 dead. Meet us in our time of tri - al, fill us with your Spir - it's
 fair.

B♭/C C Dm Am/C B♭ F/A Gm7 B♭/C F

power. As we stand be - fore op - pres - sion, give us cour - age for this hour.

WORDS: Daniel Charles Damon

BEACH SPRING

MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White, *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; arr. Daniel Charles Damon

8.7.8.7.Ref.

The assembly stands.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P May you deeply trust the nourishment provided to us by our Savior Jesus Christ, and may it urge you forward, with renewed strength and life, to be God's love in, to, and for the world.

C **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray,
God, we give thanks for the opportunity to serve and be served by those you place in our paths, for our beloved siblings of all genders, sexual orientations, gifts, talents, abilities, marginalizations, and privilege.

Take our thanks and make it action. Take your rolling, love-soaked justice and drench us with the desire and capacity to bring it more fully into every single thing we do.

Because you give us the courage, you give us the freedom, you call us to walk in the ways of your Son, the Christ, the redeemer, in this world with your Spirit by our side. We honor this call and give thanks.

C **Amen.**

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

P May the outrageous welcome of our Creator ✝ accept and love us for who we are; may the incarnation of the Word touch and hold us close; may the dancing flicker of the rainbow Spirit help us risk ourselves for love; and the blessing of God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

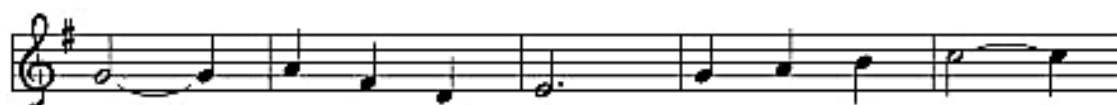
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

SENDING HYMN **715** *Christ, Be Our Light*



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice,
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL


- A We believe out loud that God’s mission for us is:
C **to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God’s call.**
- A Go now in wholeness to love and work for the justice of God.
C **Thanks be to God.**

+ + +

*The worship service provided is adapted from several sources, including Dr. Marcia McFee’s Roll Down Justice from **Worship Design Studio***

*Arise! The St. Stephen Service
Music by Tom Buchanan Lyrics by Ron Hartung*

*Sundays and Seasons v.20220805.1416
Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.*



**Sandy and Lawana Lamb-Daniels
dedicate today's altar flowers to the glory of God,
in celebration of their ninth anniversary.**

<u>Calendar for January 28 - February 4</u>			
Jan. 28	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
		9:30 am	Choir practice
		10:00 am	Worship, Reconciling In Christ Sunday
		11:30 am	RIC Speaker/Potluck
31	Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir practice
04	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
		9:30 am	Choir practice
		10:00 am	Worship, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Next Sunday's Readings, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany:

[Isaiah 40:21-31](#)

[Psalm 147:1-11, 20c](#)

[1 Corinthians 9:16-23](#)

[Mark 1:29-39](#)



SERVING EVERY SUNDAY

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

Choir: Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Mark Canning, Judi Duffy, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Martin Guttenplan, Vicki Guttenplan, Ron Hartung, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Sandy Ness, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White

SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY

Serving	January 28	February 4
Assisting Minister	Jennifer Dritt	Rob Schiffer
Cup Minister	Audrey Post	Colleen Holdcraft
Cantor		Susan Hehn
Lector	Jonas Holdcraft	Mark Greeley
Acolyte	Cup Minister - or Colton Allen or Graham Reece	
Tech Team	Caroline Collins Audrey Post	
Ushers		
Altar Guild	Rita Ford Susan Warren	Audrey Post Billie Reardon
Counters	Janet Barber Susan Warren	Kirsten Ebbesen Rob Schiffer

PRAYER REQUESTS

New concerns: Family and friends of Val Sullivan, as we mourn her passing; Prayers to the family of Jennifer Dritt as they mourn the loss of James Oliver Dritt (Jen's father); Bob Eshleman, recovering from heart surgery; Gladys Kane for continued healing; Amanda George (daughter-in-law of Rob Schiffer), diagnosed with breast cancer; Laura McDuffie (sister of Rob Schiffer), diagnosed with primary immunodeficiency and Sjogren's syndrome.

For the sick: Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Sallie Robinson (wife of Erik Robinson); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor), being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White).

In treatment for cancer: Phil Williams; Gordon Fleischer; Stephanie Barber; Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Craig Timm (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Laura Ketchum-Jahn, (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Aubrey Thonvold (Reconciling Works Exec. Dir.); Judy Renwick (friend of Judi Duffy); Gil Johnson (friend of Judi Duffy).

Health and protection: For all affected by the coronavirus – especially those experiencing mental-health difficulties due to isolation, those struggling to recover from the disease, those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personnel, EMTs), the millions of unemployed people, etc.; for the unaccompanied children entering the U.S., including those “unaccounted for.”

For prisoners: All those on Death Row.

Other concerns: For Karen Olson; Kevin Robinson (son of Erik Robinson), in need of encouragement; Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt), for physical and emotional healing; Steve Michael (cousin of Rob Schiffer), in rehab after a serious accident.

Church concerns: St. Stephen's Church Council; the Florida-Bahamas Synod Council; all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; for rest and rejuvenation for Presiding Bishop Eaton as she takes a leave of absence for several months; Interim Presiding Bishop Michael Burk, providing leadership in Bp. Eaton's absence; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

World concerns: For all people suffering and/or recovering from hurricanes; migrants and asylum seekers; civil rights for people around the world; a ceasefire in Ethiopia and in Ukraine; peace in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWER CHART FOR 2024: Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service by signing up for the 2024 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$40, and you can place it in the offering plate.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER: Want to read a sermon you missed? Visit <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>. Want to read the latest newsletters? Go to <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>. Want to browse a collection of St. Stephen songs? They're at <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>.