



Riverside Congregational Church  
August 22, 2021

13<sup>TH</sup> Sunday in Pentecost

*As this piece of bread was scattered over the hills and then  
was brought together and made one, so let your Church be  
brought together from the ends of the earth into your  
Kingdom. For yours is the glory and the power through Jesus  
Christ forever.*

## Find Us Faithful

O may all who come behind us find us faithful;  
May the fire of our devotion light their way.  
May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe,  
And the lives we live inspire them to obey.  
O may all who come behind us find us faithful.



# Call to Worship

**Leader:** O God, we have no life apart from you.

**All:** We do not come here to eat bread that fills us for a day.

**Leader:** Rather we come to be nourished by you and that the love you have for us fills us for a lifetime.

**All:** May this food strengthen our discipleship.

**All:** Grant that it will renew in us our commitment to proclaiming the gospel of peace through our ministries of peace and justice in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

## Psalm 34

I will bless God at all times;  
God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in God;  
Let the humble hear and be glad.

O magnify God with me and let us exalt God's name together.  
I sought God, and God answered me, and delivered me from all  
my fears.

O let us exalt God's name forever.

## John 6: 56-69

**Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This 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.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.**

**When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless.**

## John 6: 56-69

**The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But 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. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”**

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

## Ephesians 6: 10-20

**Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For 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. 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. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.**

## Ephesians 6: 10-20

**As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. 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. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 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. 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, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.**





# Reflection

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## They'll Know We are Christians

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.



## They'll Know We are Christians

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.  
We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.



## They'll Know We are Christians

We work with each other; we will work side by side.

We work with each other; we will work side by side.

And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.





# Pastoral Prayer

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## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done in earth,  
As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
The power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.

## Because He Lives

God sent his son, they call him Jesus  
He came to love, heal, and forgive  
He lived and died to buy my pardon  
An empty grave is there to prove my savior lives

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;  
Because he lives, all fear is gone.  
Because I know he holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because he lives.



## Because He Lives

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride and joy he brings.  
But greater still the calm assurance,  
This child can face uncertain days because he lives.

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;  
Because he lives, all fear is gone.  
Because I know he holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because he lives.





## Because He Lives

And then one day, I'll cross the river.  
I'll fight life's final war with pain.  
And then as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory, and I'll know he lives.

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;  
Because he lives, all fear is gone.  
Because I know he holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because he lives.





## Benediction

Go forth from here filled with the bread of life. Share that bread with those you meet so they may taste the bread that will never let them know hunger.  
May God's blessing be upon you.  
May Jesus' love attend to you.  
May the Holy Spirit sustain you until we meet again.