



Riverside
Congregational
Church

September 12, 2021

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

*Called as partners in Christ's service
Called to ministries of grace
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace
May we learn the art of sharing
Side by side and friend with friend
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfil God's chosen end*



Called as Partners in Christ's Service

*Christ's example Christ's inspiring
Christ's clear call to work and worth
Let us follow never faltering
Reconciling folk on earth
Men and women richer poorer
All God's people young and old
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold*



Called as Partners in Christ's Service

*Thus new patterns for Christ's mission
In a small or global sense
Help us bear each other's burdens
Breaking down each wall or fence
Words of comfort words of vision
Words of challenge said with care
Bring new p'wer and strength for action
Make us colleagues free and fair*



Called as Partners in Christ's Service

*So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife
Make us partners in our living
Our compassion to increase
Messengers of faith thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace*



Call to Worship

Leader: Sisters and brothers, let us re-commit our lives to do God's will:

We will love one another. We will offer hospitality to strangers, remembering that by doing so, some have entertained angels unaware.

People: We will visit who are in prison, as though we were in prison with them. We will help those who have suffered abuse, as if we had suffered with them.

Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus suffered outside the city gate in order to win our hearts by his own blood. We will also live as “outsiders”. We will live for others and bear the abuse he endured.

For we are not citizens of this earth, but our true home is in heaven.

People: In Christ, we will praise God every day!

Leader: We will do good and share what we have, knowing that giving to others pleases God.

All: Alleluia! Let us worship God!

Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16

Stay on good terms with each other, held together by love. Be ready with a meal or a bed when it's needed. Why, some have extended hospitality to angels without ever knowing it! Regard prisoners as if you were in prison with them. Look on victims of abuse as if what happened to them had happened to you. Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband. God draws a firm line against casual and illicit sex.

Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16

Don't be obsessed with getting more material things. Be relaxed with what you have. Since God assured us, "I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you," we can boldly quote,

*God is there, ready to help;
I'm fearless no matter what.
Who or what can get to me?*

Appreciate your pastoral leaders who gave you the Word of God. Take a good look at the way they live, and let their faithfulness instruct you, as well as their truthfulness.

Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16

There should be a consistency that runs through us all. For Jesus doesn't change—yesterday, today, tomorrow, he's always totally himself.

So let's go outside, where Jesus is, where the action is—not trying to be privileged insiders, but taking our share in the abuse of Jesus. This “insider world” is not our home. We have our eyes peeled for the City about to come. Let's take our place outside with Jesus, no longer pouring out the sacrificial blood of animals but pouring out sacrificial praises from our lips to God in Jesus' name.

Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16

Make sure you don't take things for granted and go slack in working for the common good; share what you have with others. God takes particular pleasure in acts of worship—a different kind of “sacrifice”—that take place in kitchen and workplace and on the streets.



Sermon:

“Risking is Rewarding”

O Jesus, I Have Promised

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me,
my Savior and my Friend;
I shall not fear life's struggles
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.



O Jesus, I Have Promised

O let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will!
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control!
O speak, and make me listen,
O guardian of my soul!



O Jesus, I Have Promised

O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you
that where you are in glory
your servant shall be, too;
And, Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow
my Savior and my Friend!





Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
your Kingdom come.
Your will be done
on earth, as is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against
us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory, are yours
now and forever. Amen.*

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

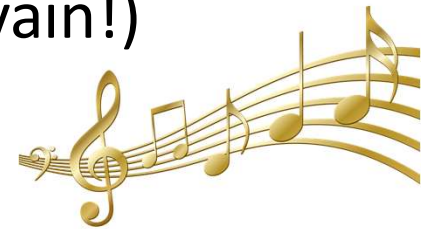
Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.

Guide My Feet

Guide my feet while I run this race;
guide my feet while I run this race;
guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

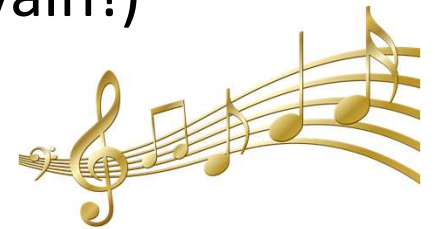
Hold my hand while I run this race;
hold my hand while I run this race;
hold my hand while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)



Guide My Feet

Stand by me while I run this race;
stand by me while I run this race;
stand by me while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

I'm your child while I run this race;
I'm your child while I run this race;
I'm your child while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)



Guide My Feet

Search my heart while I run this race;
search my heart while I run this race;
search my heart while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

Guide my feet while I run this race;
guide my feet while I run this race;
guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!





Benediction

God be with you,

God be with you,

God be with you 'till we meet again

O---God be with you,

God be with you,

God be with you 'till we meet again