

# 40 Days of Prayer

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Draw near. Trust. Abide.

September 20th - October 29th



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## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

September 20, 2026

17th Sunday After Pentecost/Proper 20

11:00 am

(\*) *You're invited to stand as you are able.*

### GATHERING

#### PRELUDE

*Heart on Fire* by Matt Walker

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*adapted from Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'*

One: In reverence, in wonder,

**All: And in hope, we gather.**

One: With unsettled questions in our hearts,

**All: With the mystery of God surrounding us,**

One: Acknowledging God's Spirit working in us,

**All: We worship God.**

#### \*OPENING HYMN #292

*As the Wind Song*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Responsive*)

*adapted from Thomas Merton*

Our Lord God, we have no idea where we are going. We do not see the road ahead of us nor do we really know ourselves, and the fact that we think we are following your will does not mean that we are actually doing so. But we believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And we hope that we will never do anything apart from that desire. And we know that if we do this, you will lead us by the right road though we may know nothing about it. Therefore we will trust you always though, we may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. We will not fear, for you are ever with us, and you will never leave us to face our struggles alone. *Silent prayer...*

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

#### \*RESPONSE #582

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

#### PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

One: May the love and peace of Christ be with you all. **All: And also with you.**

#### ANTHEM

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness* arr. Lily Topolski

### THE WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 29:1-14

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

Kent Hamaker

## SECOND SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 29:11-14

## TIME OF REFLECTION

Rev. Caitlin Culp

### \*HYMN #291

*Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

{adapted from *Belonging to God: A First Catechism*}

One: Why do we pray to God?

**All: Because we were created to live with God, who desires the prayers of our hearts. Our hearts long for God, for we need God's help and guidance every day.**

One: What do we mean when we pray to God as "Our Father"?

**All: As Jesus taught us, we call upon God like little children who know that God cares for them and loves them. Because Jesus prayed to God as his Father, we too can pray to God in this way.**

One: When we pray to God as our Father, do we mean that God is male?

**All: No. God is Spirit and has no body.**

One: What do we mean when we pray to God "in heaven"?

**All: We mean that God draws near to us from beyond this world, and hears our prayers.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Prayer requests are listed in the bulletin. You're invited to share prayer requests aloud.

## EUCCHARIST

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

You may write a check, place cash in the offering plate, or give online with the QR code.



### \*DOXOLOGY #607

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## SENDING

### \*CLOSING HYMN #39

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

### \*BENEDICTION

*The Joy of the Lord* by Gregg Sewell

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*Thank you for sharing in this time of worship with us. Today's Usher is Pat Tarr. The liturgist is Lourdes Gonzalez. The worship service is recorded and available on YouTube and the church's website.*

*Large print hymn books, individual seat cushions, and children's activity packets are available from the usher at the entrance. Childcare is provided after the Time With Children for children under 2nd grade. Children of all ages are welcome to stay in the sanctuary for all parts of the worship service.*

*Bathrooms are located outside of the sanctuary to the right, through the narthex, and up the small set of stairs in the foyer. A diaper changing station is in the Library, which is past the bathrooms, through the double doors, and on the left. An ADA-accessible bathroom is located in the fellowship hall. To access the fellowship hall, drive around to the parking lot and enter through the double doors.*

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## PRAYER LIST

Ursula's family                      Dick and Dolores                      Survivors who work with Doorways  
Judy    Annette    Isaac    Caroline    Rev. Jean                      Debbie  
Folks on EIPC's prayer list                      EIPC as they continue their search for a pastor  
Darla                      Lola                      Our country's leaders.                      Those impacted by health crises.  
Peace in the Middle East; for cessation of hostilities between Israel, Iran, & USA.  
Othow and his ministry in South Sudan, especially for his radio station.

*\*If you have prayer requests you'd like added to this list, email [covenantpastorpcusa@gmail.com](mailto:covenantpastorpcusa@gmail.com).  
Prayers remain on this list for two weeks unless we hear otherwise.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Angklung Practice for World Communion Sunday: Today @ 3:00pm**

**40 Days of Prayer: September 20th-October 29th**

**Monday Morning Quarterbacks (Men's Group) - Mondays @ 10am**

**Bible Study on the Wisdom of Solomon - Tuesdays @ 10am via Zoom**

**Zoom Devotional - Thursdays @ 12pm**

**World Communion Sunday and Potluck  
lunch w/ EIPC - Sunday, October 4th, 11am**

To receive church emails,  
email [covenantpastorpcusa@gmail.com](mailto:covenantpastorpcusa@gmail.com).

**Check out the September Covenant Call  
for more info on upcoming events!**

