

OLYMPIA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
August 29, 2021 • 14th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

Welcome, Check-in, & Announcements

Prelude

Dr. Jonathan Spatola-Knoll

Responsive Call-to-Worship

Servant: What does this worship service need?

People: **Quiet where faith can grow, song that blossoms hope, scripture that remembers love, honest words to untangle a small length of knotty existence, gifts offering service of the heart.**

Servant: Who shall come to this worship service?

People: **All who are lonely for the touch of God.**

Song

*Cornerstone*

My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus love and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly trust in Jesus name  
(Repeat)

Christ alone, Cornerstone, Weak made strong, In the Savior's love  
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide Christ's face, I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone, Cornerstone, Weak made strong, In the Savior's love  
Through the storm, Christ is Lord, Lord of all

He is Lord...Lord of all

When He shall come with trumpet sound, may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless stand before the throne

Christ alone, Cornerstone, Weak made strong, In the Savior's love  
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all

**Hymn**

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

#82

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I've come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, bought me with his precious blood/love.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

**Invocation**

Spirit of the Living God, be with our kaleidoscopic church. We are many-colored and multi-shaped, with fragments that focus and focus again always in different patterns as we turn to the light of your presence. Help us to love the patterns and the turning, and to trust in the beauty of a wholeness we may rarely see. Amen.

**The Written Word**

Deuteronomy 4: 1–2, 6–9

NRSV

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you... You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children—

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**Video**

*Love One Another*

The Work of The People

**The Written Word**

Psalm 15

God, who gets invited to dinner at your place? How do we get on your guest list?

“Walk straight, act right, tell the truth.

Don't hurt your friend, don't blame your neighbor; despise the despicable.

Keep your word even when it costs you, make an honest living, never take a bribe.

You'll never get blacklisted if you live like this.”

**Ministry Moment**

*Generous Hospitality*

**Tithes & Offerings**

**Special Music**

*The Prayer*

Sandi Swarthout & Meggin Turk  
Troy Fisher (Accompanist)

**ENTERING GOD'S STORY**

**The Written Word**

James 1: 17–27

NRSV

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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**The Spoken Word**

*Catch and Release*

Rev. Mark Rambo

**YouTube Video**

*In His Time*

Wayne Hallmeyer

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Juneau AK

**Prayers of the People**

Rev. Mark Rambo

**Hymn**

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

#379

**Weekly Challenge**

**Postlude**

Dr. Jonathan Spatola-Knoll

**Benediction**

*Walk Humbly • Love Completely • Live Differently*