

Welcome, Check-in and Announcements

Prelude Dr. Jonathan Spatola-Knoll

Responsive Call-to-Worship

Servant: May the peace of God rest upon your busy lives so that you may be quieted into prayer

People: May the love of God flow through our worship words that they may be alive with opportunities for service.

Servant: May the grace of God seek out your every need and may the restless gospel set your hearts on fire.

People: Amen and Amen!

Hymn Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

#111, v. 1-4

Rejoice, you pure in heart, Rejoice, give thanks and sing; Your festal banners wave on high,

The cross of Christ your Kin(g). Rejoice, rejoice; Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Bright youth and snow-crowned age, Strong men and women fair,

Raise high your free, exulting song, God's wondrous praise declare!

Rejoice, rejoice; Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

With the angel choirs, with all the saints on earth, Pour out the strains of joy and bliss,

True rapture, noblest mirth! Rejoice, rejoice; Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

Yes, on through life's long path, Still chanting as we go; From youth to age, by night and day,

In gladness and in woe. Rejoice, rejoice; Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

Invocation

Amen.

We worship you, O God, and thank you that you receive us when we turn to you. We turn to you now, trusting the promise of Jesus Christ to be with us whenever two or three gather in his name. Come to us, and fill us with your Spirit of unity and truth, that we may serve you in the world; for we pray this in Jesus' name.

Song of Centering

Sanctuary

Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary. Pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living, Sanctuary, for you.

It is you, Lord who came to save; The heart and soul of everyone It is you Lord, who knows my weakness; who gives me strength, with thine own hand.

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary. Pure and Holy, tried and true With thanksgiving, I'll be a living, Sanctuary for you

Lead Me on Lord, from temptation. Purify me from within. Fill my heart with Your holy spirit; take away all my sin.

Lord prepare me to be sanctuary. Pure and holy, tried and true With thanksgiving, I'll be a living, Sanctuary for You

Ministry Moment

Tithes, Offerings and Prayer

Loving God, our hunger is never better satisfied than at your Table. Our gifts can have no higher value than when they are offered to you. Because you fill our spirits, we hunger to serve. And we pray that these gifts may be as food to nourish the living body of Christ. Amen.

The Written Word Psalm 116: 1–9 NRSV

I love the Lord, because God has heard my voice and my supplications. Because God inclined an ear to me, therefore I will call on God as long as I live. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!" Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful. The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, God saved me. Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

COMING TO TABLE

Call-to-Communion

Servant: We dare not come to this table trusting in our own goodness or virtue

People: We come knowing we need forgiveness and trusting God to grant it.

Servant: We come because we are hungry for meaning and need to be fed.

People: God, forgive and feed us.

Servant: We come because Jesus Christ invited us.

People: We come as Christ's guests to the heavenly banquet

Servant: We come in remembrance, but much more; in recalling the sacrifice of Christ for us we are moved to Christ-like identification with suffering humanity.

People: We join here not in passive recollection of ancient signs, but in active reflection of the flesh and blood realities which these signs represent.

ALL: Jesus, stand among us today as host and celebrant!

Song One Bread, One Body Darrell Born

One bread, one body, One Lord of all One cup of blessing which we bless And we, though many, Throughout the earth We are one body in this one Lord

Gentile or Jew, Servant or free; Woman or man, no more
One bread, one body, One Lord of all; One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many, Throughout the earth
We are one body in this one Lord

Many the gifts, Many the works, One in the Lord of all One bread, one body, One Lord of all; One cup of blessing which we bless And we, though many, Throughout the earth We are one body in this one Lord

Grain for the fields, Scattered and grown, Gathered to one, for all One bread, one body, One Lord of all; One cup of blessing which we bless And we, though many, Throughout the earth We are one body in this one Lord

Call to Confession

We laugh at God in many ways. But Jesus taught us that one of the ways in which we invite judgment upon ourselves is to promise what we believe God wants to hear while intending to do as we please. The path to righteousness is through sincere repentance which makes us new people, more inclined to obedience than deception. Let us meet God in repentance by confessing together our disbelief.

Prayer of Confession

Sometimes God, we do not expect too much from you; we expect too little. Our lives are not filled with "great expectations." Sometimes your promises seem so outlandish, so unlikely as to be laughable. We are afraid that your promise, like our promises, may be broken and we are hesitant to be so vulnerable. And sometimes, we are afraid they may come true and demand too much of us. Help us to cling to your promises and laugh with joy when impossibilities come true through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Pastor

God in Christ breaks down the walls that makes us strangers to ourselves and divide us one from another. We are the body of Christ! Around this Table, we enact our faith. The body broken, is restored to wholeness; lifeblood poured out, brings healing to our world.

Communion Bread + Cup

This bread reminds us of Christ's body, which was broken on a cross, and our brokenness and sin in Christ's body, as individuals and the church.

This cup is God's new covenant sealed with the Savior's lifeblood, which is poured out for us all!

Assurance of Pardon

In the act of suffering, Christ absorbed our sins. In unfailing love, Christ forgives our heartfelt failures. In Christ's resurrection, God promises acceptance, assures pardon, and affirms eternal life. "Your sins are forgiven you," Christ says. "Go and sin no more."

Song of Response

Bind Us Together

#130

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; Bind us together with Love.

There is only one God; there is only one King. There is only one body, that is why we sing;

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord; Bind us together with Love.

ENTERING AND HEARING GOD'S STORY

The Written Word

Mark 8: 27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Spoken Word

Who are you?

Rev. Mark Rambo

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Special Music

Oceans

Emily Blair and Geoff Gage

You call me out upon the waters; The great unknown where feet may fail And there I find YOU in the mystery, in oceans deep, my faith will stand

And I will call upon YOUR name and keep my eyes about the waves When oceans rise My soul will rest in YOUR embrace; For I am YOURS and YOU are mine

Your grace abounds in deepest waters, YOUR sovereign hand will be my guide Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me, You've never failed and YOU won't start now

So I will call upon YOUR name and keep my eyes above the waves When oceans rise My soul will rest in YOUR embrace, for I am YOURS and YOU are mine

Special Music (continued)

Oceans

Emily Blair and Geoff Gage

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders; Let me walk upon the waters

Wherever YOU would call me

Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander; and my faith will be made stronger, In the presence of my Savior

Congregation sings:

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders; Let me walk upon the waters Wherever YOU would call me Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander; and my faith will be made stronger, In the presence of my Savior (repeat 1x)

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders; Let me walk upon the waters Wherever YOU would call me Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander and my faith will be made stronger, In the presence of my Savior

I will call upon YOUR name Keep my eyes above the waves My soul will rest in YOUR embrace I am YOURS and YOU are mine

Prayers of the People

O God, September is a month of changes. We can feel it in the cooler air, the drop in humidity, the graying skies. Some of us found our way back to school and we all want to learn. Let us all grow in wisdom and maturity. Some of us are watching our harvest begin, while the gardens of others among us produce less and less. Let all our hearts produce love and kindness. Many of us are leaving vacations behind, but God, you can keep our lives renewed by filling us with your joy and your rest.

Creative God, every year the world spins through its seasons and every year brings new trouble. Steady and soothe your earth that its changes may be good changes and its struggles end in peace. Loving God, who without change remains our steadfast friend, watch over the changes in our lives. May we stretch and grow but always and ever remain yours. Keep our eyes above the waves. May our souls rest in Your embrace. We are yours and You are ours.

Amen.

Hymn *He Leadeth Me* #447, v. 1–3

He leadeth me, O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught Whate'er I do, where'er I be, Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me He leadeth me; By His own hand He leadeth me His faithful follower I would be, For by His hand He leadeth me

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom, Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom By waters still, over troubled sea, Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me He leadeth me, He leadeth me, By His own hand He leadeth me His faithful follower I would be, For by His hand He leadeth me

Lord, I would clasp thine hand in mine, Nor ever murmur nor repine Content, whatever lot I see; Since 'tis thine hand that leadeth me He leadeth me, He leadeth me, By His own hand He leadeth me His faithful follower I would be, For by His hand He leadeth me

Weekly Challenge

Postlude Dr. Jonathan Spatola-Knoll

Benediction Walk Humbly • Love Completely • Live Differently

ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD

We are surrounded by oxygen, but if you don't breathe, it won't do you any good.

Daily we are surrounded with the aliveness of the Spirit, the invisible presence of God.

Do we recognize the evidence? Have you been curious about God's Spirit and the ways He acts toward us? This class will help you in your understanding of God's action.

On Sept. 19th, at 8:30 a.m., we will gather for our first class on the actions of God's Spirit, in the Fireside Room.

Pastor Sam