

**Order for Worship for 17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2020**

Prelude

“Sanctuary”

Dylan Watt

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord who is our provider!

The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

God brought us out of bondage and has made us free.

The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

Glorious are the deeds of our God, and mighty are his acts.

The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

Prayer of the Day

Hymn # 53

“O God, Who Gives Us Life”

C Daw, Jr. 1990/Eng. melody 1874

O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
Help us to know your spirit still is making all things new.

O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.

O God, of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.

Prayer of Confession

We fear to approach you with our confession, holy God, for you may require changes in us that are costly. You ask us to have the mind of Christ, a mind free of pretense and self-interest. You challenge us to lay aside our advantages to go where you send us. We fear loss of security if we are obedient. It is hard to see ourselves as exploiters when we pursue advantages for our families. It is difficult to consider others when we feel like victims. We confess our need for you and our desire to find your purpose for us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Prayer for Illumination

Readings from Holy Scripture

Exodus 17:1-7
Matthew 21:23-32

Sermon

“By Whose Authority?”

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above
every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess
to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord!**

Hymn # 630

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Text 1677/Silesian folk melody 1842

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down,
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host.
Jesus shines brighter; Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Saviour, Ruler of all the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering of Our Gifts

Invitation

Offertory

“Jupiter Hymn” by Gustav Holst

Ruth Ochs and Tomasz Rzeczycki

Unison Prayer of Dedication

**Giver of all gifts, you bless us with resources to share—
money and energy, time and creativity, skills and talents.
We offer you these gifts. We offer you our lives.
May these gifts and our lives bring blessing
to our sisters and brothers near and far. Amen.**

Hymn # 65

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Williams 1762/Hughes 1907

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee; I will ever give to thee.

Charge and Blessing

from Colossians 3

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and remain with you always.

Postlude

"Ancient of Days"

Amy Watt

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Our thanks go to Dylan Watt, the Clark family, Janice Van Deusen, Inna Nikolykin, Mary Loetscher, Amy Watt, and Ruch Ochs and Tomasz Rzeczycki for their contributions to today's service.

Portions of today's liturgy are from *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts; Year A*, *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Vol 2*; and *Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A*, by Lavon Bayler.

### Notes on today's hymns from *Glory to God, 2013*

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. "O God Who Gives Us Life" draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

No record of the German text of "Fairest Lord Jesus" exists before the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> C., or of the Silesian folk melody before the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> C. Franz Liszt used the melody for a "Crusaders' March" in an oratorio, but the hymn text has nothing to do with the Crusades.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18<sup>th</sup> C text, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah," that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20<sup>th</sup> C. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scriptures.

**Reminder: A special meeting of the congregation is hereby called for Sunday, October 4, 2020 at 11 am, at the conclusion of morning worship. The purpose of the meeting is to act on two proposed amendments to the By-Laws: language to authorize electronic meetings and the reduction of the number of elders on Session. Text of the proposed amendments was mailed to every member on September 10, 2020.**