



# *Sunday Worship* *September 3, 2023*

*Love your neighbor.*

\* indicates where the congregation is to stand if able  
*italic type is spoken by the liturgist – bold is spoken by the congregation*

## ***HYMN SING***

### ***\*CALL TO WORSHIP***

Love the Lord your God,

**with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind!**

Love your neighbor as yourself,

**with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind!**

Do this and you will live!

**Let us worship God!**

### ***OPENING PRAYER***

**Give your church, O God, the grace to serve you with courage, that our lives may be a witness to your compassion and our actions a testimony to your mercy. Though Jesus Christ our Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen**

***\*HYMN #305*** Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

1. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!

2. Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,  
empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!

3. Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,  
as we in mission magnify the Crucified!

4. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!

Refrain: In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

## ***CALL TO CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION***

### ***PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND BROKENESS***

**God of Mercy: We confess that we have failed to live as your beloved sons and daughters. We have set our minds on the things of this world, and we have neglected the inheritance of love you bestow upon your saints. We have pursued selfish aims in our daily business; we have harbored uncharitable thoughts toward our enemies and friends; we have avoided difficult responsibilities to our neighbors. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our selfish ways and strengthen us to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND BLESSING**

Hear the good news: Christ is merciful to all who turn to him in repentance. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

### **\*GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

### **FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON** Psalm 25:1-10

<sup>1</sup>To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

<sup>3</sup>Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

<sup>6</sup>Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

<sup>7</sup>Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

<sup>8</sup>Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

<sup>9</sup>He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

<sup>10</sup>All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

## **TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

### **\*HYMN #63** The Lord Is God

1. The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.

2. With all your heart, with all you soul, with all your mind and might, O people, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.

3. At night or day, at home, away, together and apart, O children, take these holy words and keep them in your heart.

4. The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thank, and praise to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON** Luke 10:25-37

<sup>25</sup>Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup>He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" <sup>27</sup>He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." <sup>28</sup>And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." <sup>29</sup>But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" <sup>30</sup>Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' <sup>36</sup>Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" <sup>37</sup>He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

## **SERMON** Strangers No More

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING AND MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Receive these gifts, O God. May our lives be an offering that is pleasing to you, good gifts that come from the knowledge of life in Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen**

**SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*We gather here, Gracious God, with hearts of thanksgiving and praise. We give thanks for all the gifts with which you have blessed us: for the created world in which we live, for family and friends with whom we share our lives, for food on our plates and roofs over our heads, and for all those things that make life abundant.*

*We gather here, Merciful God, with hearts that ache for the pain in the world. We offer prayers for those who find life to be challenging and difficult this day: those who worry about their health or the health of a loved one, those who live in places where peace and justice are known by their absence rather than their presence, those who worry about where the next meal will come from, or where to find next month's rent, those who have been told that, for some reason or another, they are too different to be acceptable. May all who struggle in life know that they are not alone, that they are held in a love that will never let them go.*

*Here at this table, we remember how Jesus taught us a new way of living together. Through the gifts of the bread and the cup, we are strengthened to live and love the way Jesus modelled and taught. Even as we remember how he died for those very teachings, we share this meal and pray for your blessing as we eat and drink in fellowship with each other. May we be filled with hope for today and tomorrow. May your Spirit move among us that we might be rejuvenated and empowered to live as Jesus' followers. Amen.*

**SHARING THE ELEMENTS** *(please hold the bread and then the cup until we all commune together showing our unity in Christ)*

**UNISON PRAYER**

**Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #12** Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, then wither and perish but naught changeth thee.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS September 3, 2023**

**This week's carillon is in memory of Jennie Leedom. Jennie is the mother of member Elsie Leedom.**

**Welcome Rev. Debbie Heffernan** Thank you to Debbie for serving as our supply preacher for the past 4 Sundays. We are wishing you all the best and hope to have you join us again.

Thank you Maggie Realley for filling in today for in for Leanne Yerkes while she is away.

**Items Needed for Welcome Church Coffee Hour Snacks:** On September 24<sup>th</sup> the Youth Group and any others who wish to join them, will go to Philadelphia at 1:00 to provide snacks for the Welcome Church worship service. This is a church without walls that reaches out to those who are homeless, worshiping every other Sunday on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Help is needed to provide the snacks. Item slips for what is needed is available on the partition in Fellowship Hall. **All items need to be brought to the church by next Sunday, September 10** so the youth group can pack up items into packages with five different snacks. These will be put in the freezer to keep everything fresh. Contact Pastor Su if you have any questions.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS:** next Sunday, September 10. Children are invited to attend worship and will then be dismissed to class after the Time with the Children. Our dedicated teachers will pack each week with Bible stories, music, games and lots and lots of education fun!!

**YOUTH GROUP BEGINS:** next Sunday, September 10, at 6:30pm and ends at 8:00pm. Hey 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders, Pastor Su and Missi Dell'Orefice are thinking up some exciting events for the fall and want your input so come on out and share your ideas.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:** Our yearly blood drive will be **Saturday Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 8AM to 1PM**. If you would like to view the schedule and reserve a time, please feel welcome to use the link below. Or, you're welcome to email me with your preferred 60 minute window of time, and I'll find a time that is convenient for you. The Red Cross is telling us appts are required, and that 'walk-ins' are no longer permitted. The link to the Red Cross schedule is <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>. Then please use the vertical bar to scroll down to 'September 9', then select 'Forest Grove Church' to view the open appts, and reserve a time. The website also has information on donor eligibility related to medical conditions, medications, and age, ht & wt guidelines for donors. Thanks for considering it. With Appreciation, Dana

**HANDBELL CHOIR:** Step out of your comfort zone! Have fun with friends! Experienced and beginner bell ringers are needed for the upcoming year! Join this diverse, fun group as we rehearse weekly to participate in the service monthly and for special events! Contact Leanne for more information! 215-920-4000

**Food Pantry Needs:** **This week we are asking for the following items:** Condiments such as: Salt, pepper, Ketchup, mustard, relish, cooking oil, syrup. Bring your item(s) to the church. Donations are to be placed in the wagon located in the vestibule.

<b>Calendar:</b>	September 3	10:00 am	Worship Service followed by Fellowship
	September 4	7:00 pm	LABOR DAY – offices Closed
	September 6	12:00pm	Bring your Brown bag lunch for Fellowship.
	September 9		BLOOD DRIVE 8AM – 1PM

**Elder of the month:** Bill Wark      **Deacon of the month:** Gerry Stemplewicz  
**Usher:** Gerry Stemplewicz      **Fellowship Hosts:** Penny Kipe  
**Communion set-up:** Amy Raab and Courtney Woolslayer

***In our thoughts and prayers:***

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Raymond Tinari, Alvin Cornell, Pat Gessner  
Jim Turner, Violet Sanders, Mary Lou Humlhanz, David Posnett, Pat Pizza



**Church Staff**  
**Susan Fall, Pastor**  
**Leanne Yerkes, Director of Music**  
**Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator,**  
**Frank Orzechoski, Financial Manager**



SAVE THE DATE:  
October 7 - Our Annual Chicken Barbeque