EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 22, 2024
11:00 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

PRELUDE *All Creatures of Our God and King* arr. Steven Phillips

from Psalm 37

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Barbara Smith

Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers.
for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.
Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.

***HYMN 14** *For the Beauty of the Earth* DIX

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light: (Refrain)

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: (Refrain)

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild: (Refrain)

For thyself, best gift divine
to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven: (Refrain)

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We confess that we often struggle
to understand your call to us.
We tend to act as though we are
the gods of our own lives.
Forgive us for all the ways in which
we have failed you and our neighbors.
Call us back into the abundant life
of loving service that you offer us.

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***SONG OF JOY 805** (vv. 1 & 4) *Come Sing to God* ELLACOMBE

Come sing to God, O living saints;
sing praises to God's name.
God's anger is not permanent;
God's love will never wane.
Though tears may tarry for the night
with sighs of deepest pain,
yet joy comes with the morning sun,
a peace that is not vain.

You change my grief to joy-filled dance;
my sorrows you destroy.
In faithfulness you hear my cry
and fill my life with joy.
And so to you my heart shall sing;
my voice your goodness raise.
You are my God, forevermore.
My life shall sing your praise.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Gaelic Blessing* Steven Phillips
(The Chancel Choir with Sean O'Neil, violin)

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you.
Deep peace of Christ to you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *For Good* Rev. Boggess

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Barbara Smith

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors:
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Be Thou My Vision* arr. Steven Phillips
(Sean O'Neil, violin)

***DOXOLOGY 608** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from *The Study Catechism* (1998)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Rev. Barbara Smith

What do you understand by God's providence?
That God not only preserves the world,
but also continually attends to it,
ruling and sustaining it with wise and benevolent care.
In particular, God provides for the world by bringing good out of evil,
so that nothing evil is permitted to occur
that God does not bend finally to the good.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 706** *Commit Your Way to God the Lord* GUILSBOROUGH

Commit your way to God the Lord:
your cause will shine as bright as fire;
delight to do God's holy word
and you shall find what you desire. *(continued next page)*

Be still before the Lord and wait,
and do not fret when wrong succeeds;
refrain from anger, turn from hate,
for God will punish evil deeds.

Salvation comes from God alone:
the faithful know their help is sure;
to heaven, all our needs are known,
and in God's strength we are secure.

Commit your way to God the Lord;
to peace and truth and grace aspire;
then mercy shall be your reward;
God's promises, your heart's desire.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune David German

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.

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