FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 18, 2022
11:00 AM

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE Craig Miller

INTROIT *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* Spiritual /arr. Schrader
(The Chancel Choir)

Refrain:
Every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.

Upon the mountain, when my Lord spoke,
out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me, it looked so fine,
till I asked my Lord if all was mine. **(Refrain)**

Ol' Jordan River, so chilly and cold,
it chills the body but not the soul.
When Satan tempts me it's all in vain;
With my Lord Jesus I remain. **(Refrain)**

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** Pat Higgins

Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

For once we were lost and felt so far away;
now we have been found and welcomed home.

Know that God's love is lavished upon us forever.

We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!

Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

* **HYMN 22** *God of the Sparrow* ROEDER

God of the sparrow
God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake
God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

* *Those who are able are invited to stand.*

God of the rainbow
God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry
God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor
God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Craig Miller

Loving God,
we confess that we have tried to justify ourselves in your sight
by our hard work and our law-abiding ways.
We have sometimes been resentful of the freedom of others.
We have judged those who are not like us.
We have failed to take pleasure in the good earth
and the joy of honest work.

O God, we confess that we have run away from your love,
seeking freedom over responsibility,
trying to make it on our own,
according to shallow measures of success.

Forgive us, and enable us to continue to live
in your love and mercy. Amen.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel;
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen.

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE 610 (VERSES 1 & 2)** *O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* AZMON

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my dear redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of God's grace.

The name of Jesus charms our fears
and makes our sorrows cease,
Sings music in the sinner's ears
life and health and peace.

*** THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 15:12-32

SERMON *It's Really Not About the Younger Son* Craig Miller

*** HYMN 774** *There Is Now a New Creation* STUTTGARD

There is now a new creation
through the grace of Jesus Christ,
peace and reconciliation
with the God of endless life.

Call the lost and found together;
tell the news to everyone:
now the past is gone forever
and a new life has begun.

Wrap the prodigal in welcome;
run to greet the wayward child.
All is finished and forgiven;
let us now be reconciled.

Come and join the celebration;
come and join this happy feast;
Jesus makes an invitation
to the greatest and the least.

There is now a new creation
through the grace of Jesus Christ.
Sing, with thanks and adoration,
to the God of endless life!

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *A Brief Statement of Faith*
Pat Higgins

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female,
of every race and people, to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate this image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**

**Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah
chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.**

**Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Steven Phillips

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.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

***HYMN 769** *For Everyone Born*

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain:
And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong, **(Refrain)**

For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live, **(Refrain)**

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free, **(Refrain)**

***BENEDICTION** Craig Miller

POSTLUDE Improvisation on *For Everyone Born* Steven Phillips

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