EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021
11:00 AM

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE Margaret LaMotte Torrence

INTROIT *Come, Creator Spirit* Text: 9th c. Latin hymn/ Steven Phillips
(Carrie Mills, Matt Jarvis, Steven Phillips) Melody: Canon by Thomas Tallis

Veni, Creator Spiritus, mentes tuorum visita,
imple superna gratia, quae tu creasti pectora.

Qui diceris Paraclitus, donum Dei altissimi,
fons vivus, ignis, caritas, et spiritalis unctio.

Translation:
Come, Creator Spirit, visit the hearts of your people.
Fill with heavenly grace the hearts you have made . . .

You who are Comforter, gift of the highest God,
Living fountain, fire, love, and balm for the spirit.

A gift of love is what we bring, as each new melody we sing,
And Spirit-given songs go round in joyful interwoven sound.

Each voice, unique in its own way, yet one in purpose, one in sway,
Embraces all the others well to cast a more enchanting spell.

Creator of each living hue, each texture that we bring to you,
Oh, weave the offerings we bring into a deeply lovely thing.

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Romans 8:14-16
Abby Clissold

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you have received a spirit of adoption.

When we cry, "Abba! Father!"
it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit
that we are children of God.

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

***HYMN 292** *As the Wind Song* Wairua Tapu

As the wind song through the trees, as the stirring of the breeze,
So it is with the Spirit of God, as the heart made strangely warm,
As the voice within the storm, so it is with the Spirit of God.
Never seen, ever known where this wind has blown
Bringing life, bringing power to the world, as the dancing tongues of fire,
As the soul's most deep desire, so it is with the Spirit of God.

As the rainbow after rain, as the hope that's born again,
So it is with the Spirit of God, as the green in the spring,
As a kite on a string, so it is with the Spirit of God,
Making worlds that are new, making peace come true,
Bringing gifts, bringing love to the world, as the rising of the yeast,
As the wine at the feast, so it is with the Spirit of God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Holy God,
we confess our desire for certainty and ease:
for predictable timelines
and a prosperous future.

Instead, your Spirit calls us
to relationship and service
in a world we will not control.

Forgive our timid hearts.
Join us to your purpose,
for to know you is to live.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS Genesis 12:1-3 and John 14:18-20, 25-27, 16:12-13a

SERMON *"A Work in Progress"* Margaret LaMotte Torrence

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** From *A Declaration of Faith,* PC(USA) 1977
Abby Clissold

The church's story with God did not end
with the latest events recorded in Scripture.
Across the centuries the company of believers
has continued its pilgrimage with the Lord of history.
It is a record of faith and faithlessness, glory and shame . . .

We confess we are heirs of this whole story.
We are charged to remember our past,
to be warned and encouraged by it,
but not to live it again.

Now is the time of our testing
as God's story with the church moves forward through us.
We are called to live now as God's servants
in the service of people everywhere.

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 FOR THE OFFERING

TRIO *Many Gifts, One Spirit* Alan Pote
(Carrie Mills, Matt Jarvis, Steven Phillips)

Many gifts, one spirit, many songs, one voice
Many reasons, one promise, many questions, one choice.

O, God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above.
In our differences unite us in the circle of your love.

O, God, remind us we are not alone.
Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne.

Help us learn to love each other, show us ways to understand.
We are members of one family, growing strong by joining hands.

O, God, remind us we are not alone.
Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne.

Take our many ways of working, blend the colors of each soul
into the beauty of a rainbow.

Give us life, Lord, make us whole.

***HYMN 366 (vv. 1, 2 & 4)** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Hyfrydol

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

***BENEDICTION** Margaret LaMotte Torrence

POSTLUDE *Tallis' Canon*

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
That in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

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

Alleluia! Alleluia!