NINETEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 8, 2023
11:00 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND INVITATION Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

PRELUDE *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* arr. Steven Phillips

From Psalm 136

CALL TO WORSHIP Jeff Bartell

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for God's steadfast love endures forever.
who alone does great wonders,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;
who by understanding made the heavens,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;
O give thanks to the God of heaven,
for God's steadfast love endures forever.

* **HYMN 611** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee;
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus
which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God,
you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and ask for mercy.
We have not loved you with a pure heart,
nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not done justice, loved kindness,
or walked humbly with you and your creation.

Create in us a clean heart, O God,
Renew a right spirit within us.
Restore to us the joy of our salvation.
We pray this in the name of Jesus.

(a moment for silent reflection)

*** ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*** SONG OF JOY 582** (v 1) *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen. (Repeat)

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *The Journey is Our Home* Alan Pote
(The Chancel Choir)

Awake, arise, the journey's begun.
We travel on together as one.
We know not where the road will lead,
But we move in faith making love our creed as we follow;
The journey is our home.

Good travelers walk with company,
Sharing bread with those in need.
Giving help along the way
To those who fall, who wander astray as we follow;
The journey is our home.

Refrain
Join with us in jubilee!
Celebrate God's family.
Sing together joyfully: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Praise forevermore.

God moves with us as we go,
And hears our cry, our path God knows.
Yet far beyond the setting sun
There shines a light of a victory won.
The journey – the journey is our home. (Refrain)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Page 161
Matthew 22:34-40 Page 900

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Love is First* Rev. Boggess

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1 John 4:7-11 * **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Jeff Bartell

Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is from God;
Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
Whoever does not love does not know God,
for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way:
God sent his only Son into the world
so that we might live through him.
In this is love, not that we loved God
but that he loved us and sent his Son
to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
Beloved, since God loved us so much,
we also ought to love one another.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go* arr. Steven Phillips

* **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**

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*** HYMN 693** *Though I May Speak* GIFT OF LOVE

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Tune* David German

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