FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 1, 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 Steven Phillips

PRELUDE *Reverie* Giovanni Bottesini
(Isaac Mingus, contrabass & Steven Phillips, organ)

CALL TO WORSHIP Mary Williams

God teaches us the way of righteousness,
the way of love, the way of peace.
We glorify God,
gathering to hear God's word.
We glorify God,
enacting God's word in the world.

***HYMN 41** *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above* LYONS

1 O worship the King,
all glorious above!
O gratefully sing
God's power and God's love:
our shield and defender,
the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor
and girded with praise.

2 O tell of God's might;
O sing of God's grace,
whose robe is the light,
whose canopy space,
whose chariots of wrath
the deep thunderclouds form;
and bright is God's path
on the wings of the storm.

3 The earth with its store
of wonders untold,
Almighty, your power
has founded of old;
established it fast
by a changeless decree;
and round it has cast,
like a mantle, the sea.

4 Your bountiful care
what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air;
it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills;
it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills
in the dew and the rain.

5 Frail children of dust,
and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust,
nor find you to fail;
your mercies, how tender,
how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender,
Redeemer, and Friend.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Rev. Craig Miller

**O Lord, the psalmist tells us who may abide in your presence,
those who walk blamelessly and do what is right
and who speak the truth from their heart.
And yet, O Lord, we do not walk blamelessly.
So often we stumble on the path of faith.
The truth makes us nervous,
and we pretend not to know what is right.
Have mercy, O God.
Convict us by your wisdom,
cleanse us by your grace,
challenge us by your presence,
and, by your forgiveness, free us to try again.**

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

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

***SONG OF JOY 804** (v. 1) *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!* MARION

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Speak, Lord* Tom Trenney
(The Chancel Choir)

You are the way, the truth, and the life.
You are our hope, our victory o'er the strife.
You are our peace, our calm upon the sea.
Bringing good news to the oppressed,
you call us to set the captive free.

Refrain
Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.
Speak, Lord. How we need to hear from you.
Give us courage to speak, Lord, till injustice is silent.
Speak your words of love in all we say and do.

You come to heal our broken heart,
to comfort as we mourn, just mercy to impart.
You call us to preach the Gospel, dream the dream
till justice rolls down like water,
righteousness like a mighty stream. (Refrain)

Give us sight to see the world through the eyes of a stranger.
Help us hear the beauty of a language not our own.
Set our hearts to beat with compassion for our neighbor.
When we love each other, you are seen and known. (Refrain)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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SCRIPTURE READING Mark 7:1-8; 14-15; 21-23

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Life is Not a Balance Beam* Rev. Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PARTAKING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Veni Sancte Spiritus* Taizé Chant
(The Chancel Choir & Jazz Trio)

***DOXOLOGY 607** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDRETH

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 771** *What is the World Like* NEW WORLD

What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

What is the world like when God's will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.

What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.

What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.

These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Miller

POSTLUDE *I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table (The Jazz Trio)* Traditional Spiritual

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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