TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 17, 2025
11:00 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Eric Robinson

PRELUDE Improvisation on *Land of Rest* Early American Tune

CALL TO WORSHIP Susan McDonald

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight
and the sin that clings so closely,
and let us run with perseverance
the race that is set before us.
Mindful of the gifts we receive
and confident of the sustenance the Lord provides,
let us worship God.

***HYMN 327** *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

1 From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 In every land begin the song;
to every land the strains belong:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
In cheerful sound all voices raise
and fill the world with joyful praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;
eternal truth attends thy word:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** RC Smith

God of mercy,
we fall so easily into despair.
When we look into the future,
we often see endings and not beginnings.
We confess that we get entangled
in the problems of this world
and have trouble seeing hope for the future.
We grow cynical, and evade your call to new life. *(continued next page)*

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Forgive us for our lack of faith,
and restore in us a trust in your power
to create new beginnings.
Help us, O God, to believe in the coming of your Kingdom,
promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

(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 *Prayer for Peace* Benjamin Harlan
(The Chancel Choir)

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Faithing in God* RC Smith

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Susan McDonald

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 *Hope of the Broken World* Carter & Riddle
(Carrie Mills, Matt Jarvis, Steven Phillips)

Verse 1
In the beginning, into the darkness,
The Spirit's moving upon the water.
You spoke the words, "Let there be light."

Out of the chaos came the promise;
The universe rose and applauded
When you commanded the new born sun to rise.

Chorus
You are the Dayspring, you are the Morning Star.
Creation's splendor speaks of who you are.
You are Salvation, you are the Joy of the Earth.
Restoration comes, the hope of the broken world.

Verse 2
Into my weakness, into my darkness,
Your Spirit's moving upon my heart and
You speak the words, "Let there be light."

Into my chaos comes your promise.
The new is rising, the old is passed on.
You are reviving and making all things right. (Chorus)

Bridge
Arise, shine! The glory of the Lord has risen! (Chorus)

***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**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Susan McDonald

from *The Confession of 1967*

**The new life in Christ takes shape in a community
in which people know that God loves
and accepts them in spite of what they are.
They therefore accept themselves and love others,
knowing that no one has any ground
on which to stand except God's grace.**

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 684** *Faith Begins by Letting Go* LUX PRIMA

Faith begins by letting go,
giving up what had seemed sure,
taking risks and pressing on,
though the way feels less secure:
pilgrimage both right and odd,
trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on,
keeping memory's roots alive
so that hope may bear its fruit;
promise-fed, our souls will thrive,
not through merit we possess
but by God's great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out,
stretching minds, enlarging hearts,
sharing struggles, living prayer,
binding up the broken parts;
till we find the commonplace
ripe with witness to God's grace.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** RC Smith

POSTLUDE *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* arr. Steven Phillips

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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