

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday, September 19, 2021 | Re-Presenting God's Presence

## Gathering Music

J. Noel Lance

*In Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's self.*

## Greeting

J. Kevin Gray

## Song of Submission

*Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me*

Chancel Choir

arr. K. Lee Scott

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be;  
help me now Thy grace to see, I would be like Thee;  
and, with words that help and heal, Thy life would mine reveal;  
and, with actions, bold and meek for Christ my Savior speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;  
help me now Thy truth to see, I would be like Thee;  
and, with wisdom kind and clear, Thy life in mine appear;  
and, with actions sisterly, speak Christ's sincerity.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;  
show Thy mercy tenderly, make me more like Thee;  
separate from sin I would and cherish all things good,  
and whatever I can be give Him who gave me Thee.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be,  
help me now Thy power to see, I would be like Thee;  
'gainst all weapons hell can wield, be Thou my strength and shield;  
let Thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.

## \*Call to Worship

Rev. Dennis W. Foust PhD

ONE: The living God reaches out to us and calls us together. Let us  
reach out to each other as God reaches for us.

ALL: **For in our connecting, we shall see the face of the One who  
has called us.**

## \*Hymn of Praise

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

*All Who Live in Christ Jesus*

LOBE DEN HERREN

All those who live in Christ Jesus are God's new creation;  
this is from God who has given the gift of salvation.  
We are God's own — pardoned, made whole and brought home;  
join in the great celebration!

This is the good news that we in the church have been given:  
Everything old has made way for God's new gift from heaven.  
Life is restored! We are made new in the Lord!  
We have been freed and forgiven.

## Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Vija Chilton-Thompson

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

ONE: This is the written word of God, for the people of God.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## Moment for Reflection

J. Noel Lance



## Reading from the Epistle

Karen Moegerle

2 Corinthians 5:16-20

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to God's self through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's self, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

ONE: This is the written word of God, for the people of God.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## Song of Centering

by James Kevin Gray

*God of All Creation*

J. Kevin Gray

*Quiet your mind and be present in the presence of God.*

Lord God, creator of all things, giver of light, love, and vision. Be present here among Your people, and through the work of the Holy Spirit in us be present to the world. May our praise be through the work of our hands, the sound of our voice, and through our acts of compassion. Lord God, we worship You in all we do, we are Your body here on Earth.

## The Church at Prayer

Rev. Lee Gray

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.

**\*Song of Unity**

Congregation

ALL (spoken): We are one body, one body in Christ and we do not stand alone. We are one body, one body in Christ and he came that all may have life.

ONE: We are one body, one body in Christ, and we do not stand alone. We are one body, one body in Christ, and he came that all  
May have life.

ALL (sung): We are one body, one body in Christ, and we do not stand alone. We are one body, one body in Christ, and he came that all may have life.

**Message**

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

*Beyond Six-Feet Apart*

**\*Hymn of Discipleship**

*When, In Awe of God's Creation*

HYFRYDOL

Now we face the unknown future,  
challenged by the work at hand.  
Still the God of all creation  
summons us with one command:  
"Love each other!" We will do it.  
"Love each other!" wars might cease,  
"Love each other!" Justice follows:  
"Love each other." There is peace!

**Offertory Prayer**

Becky Skidmore

**Offertory**

J. Noel Lance

**\*Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God all creatures here below;  
praise God above ye heavenly host:  
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Commissioning the Scattered Church**

Dr. Foust

**Postlude**

J. Noel Lance