

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday, September 26, 2021 | Hearing What God Hears

## Gathering Music

J. Noel Lance

*Living God, as we enter these moments of worship, help us discover how to be answers to the prayers of other persons who are looking for Your loving embrace, Your voice of care. Teach us how to make a real difference in a world that needs the light of your wisdom and a touch Your grace.*

### \*Hymn of Praise

*God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

Chalice Hymnal No. 651, verses 1 & 4

HOLY MANNA

God, who stretched the spangled heavens, infinite in time and place,  
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space,  
we your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you.  
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.

As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,  
children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.  
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor well begun.  
Great Creator give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.

## Greeting

Rev. Dennis W. Foust PhD

### \*Call to Worship

Rev. Allison Benfield

ONE: People of God, arise! Lift your hearts.

ALL: **Lift your eyes.**

CHOIR: *Lift your voices.*

ONE: Reach out toward each other as our God reaches out to us.

ALL: **Let us worship God!**

## Prayer of Submission

Rev. Allison Benfield

### Reading from the Epistle

Philippians 2:1-4

Wilson Gray

Translation by William Barclay

“If your commitment to Jesus Christ has any influence in your life, if God’s love has any persuasive power to move you to action, if you really are sharing in the Holy Spirit, if you can feel compassion and empathy and pity, then complete my desire for you to know the joy of the Lord by being unified in your love of the same visions, joined together at your core with your minds focused on this one thing.

Do nothing in a spirit of selfish ambition or in a search for empty praise, but rather in humility consider the other person better than yourself. Do not be always concentrating on your own interests but let each of you be equally concerned for the interests of others.”

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

## Singing of the Epistle

Reneé Hutchison

1 Corinthians 13:1-6

ONE: 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.

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

ONE (Read): Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

### Moment for Reflection

We look around in the place that we live. We see people with so much to give. Yet, there are those who are needing to know just that somebody cares.

We see people just longing to know what they can live for and where they can go. We have the hope, and the purpose to share but, do we really care?

ALL (Sung): 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.

### 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.

### Prayer Concerns

Andrew Adair, Carol Drye, Betty Fuller, Polly Hull, Jean Hutson,  
Naomi Lamphier (sister of Amy Chilton), Tish Philemon,  
Gene & Carol Poole, Viorica Secere, Don Swofford, Elma Thomas

Prayers for our world, especially those living in the wake of hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, COVID-19, and global conflicts

### Solo

*Do You Really Care?*

J. Kevin Gray

Bill Cates

We look around in the place that we live.  
We see people with so much to give.  
Yet, there are those who are needing to know just that somebody cares.

Do we really care?  
Do we know how to share with people everywhere?  
Do we really care?

We see people just longing to know what they can live for and where they can go.  
We have the hope, and the purpose to share.  
But, do we really care?  
Yes, we really care.  
Yes, we know how to share with people everywhere.  
Yes, we really care.

### Message

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

*What Love Hears*

### \*Hymn of Discipleship

J. Kevin Gray

*You Have Called Us to Your Service*

BEACH SPRING

You have called us to Your service, sent us out into the world.  
We have heard You Lord and follow, we will heal and spread your love.  
Give us ears to hear them praying, hear them crying out in need  
Give our hands the strength to reach out breaking chains till all are free.

Offertory Prayer

Tricia Miller

Offertory Anthem

J. Noel Lance

*Kum Ba Yah (Come by Here Lord)*

arr. Ed Lojeski

Kum ba yah my Lord...  
Hear them crying, now...  
Hear them praying, now...  
Oh, we need You Lord...  
Kum ba yah my Lord...

\*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