

October 17, 2021
21st Sunday After Pentecost



Faith Alone

It is by God's grace alone that we know salvation and are invited to live a new life in Christ. And it is by faith alone that we receive this gift of grace. Jesus talks about faith as the greatest power in the cosmos... that faith "as small as a mustard seed" can move mountains. Faith itself is a gift from God. From the "faith of our fathers"—the faithfulness of Abraham—to the hopeful, trusting faith that fills us in our time, this gift is both the nature and foundation of our relationship with God, who says: "the righteous will live by faith."



21st Sunday after Pentecost October 17, 2021

CALL TO WORSHIP

Kyrie #157

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, and defend us, O God. **Amen.**

WELCOME

LITANY: Sola Fide

From the beginning, God has called forth faith in all who would walk with him.

God looked on Abraham's faithful trust and obedience and credited it to him
as righteousness in God's sight.

Teach us, Lord, by the stories of faith in which our forebears have walked with you.

Jesus Christ proclaims the power of faith to heal and renew,
to make possible what is impossible.

Gracious God, our hope and our trust is in you, in whom all things are possible.

In truth, faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen.

**We go forth together, trusting that we shall surely see the goodness of God
in the land of the living. Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee” #759

- 1 My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day
be wholly thine!
- 2 May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.
- 4 When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love
fear and distrust remove;
oh, bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Creating God, faith itself is a gift from you. Grow our faith, strengthen it. Teach us to hold to it, to be sustained by it. For our faith is in you and in faith alone are we saved. **Amen.**

HABAKUK 2:1-4

¹ I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint. ² Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. ³ For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. ⁴ Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

And the Word was with God. **And the Word was God.**

Psalm 146

¹ Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**² I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

³ Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

**⁴ When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.**

⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

**⁶ who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;**

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets the prisoners free;

⁸ the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹ The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰ The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

ROMANS 1:8-17

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. ⁹ For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, ¹⁰ asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. ¹¹ For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you — ¹² or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. ¹³ I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as I have among the rest of the Gentiles. ¹⁴ I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish ¹⁵ — hence my eagerness to proclaim the gospel to you also who are in Rome. ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

And the Word was with God. **And the Word was God.**

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Come, Holy Spirit, Descend”

**Come, Holy Spirit, descend on us, descend on us.
We gather here in Jesus’ name.**

**Come, Faithful Shepherd, descend on us, descend on us.
We gather here in Jesus’ name.**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

MATTHEW 8:5-13

⁵ When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him ⁶ and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress." ⁷ And he said to him, "I will come and cure him." ⁸ The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." ¹⁰ When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹² while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you according to your faith." And the servant was healed in that hour.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

TIME OF REFLECTION

SONG OF THE DAY

"Faith of Our Fathers" #812

- 1 Faith of our fathers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
whene'er we hear that glorious word.
- 2 The martyrs, chained in prisons dark,
were still in heart and conscience free;
and blest would be their children's fate
if they, like them, should die for thee. *Refrain*
- 3 Faith of our fathers! We will love
both friend and foe in all our strife;
proclaim thee too, as love knows how,
by saving word and faithful life. *Refrain*

Refrain

Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

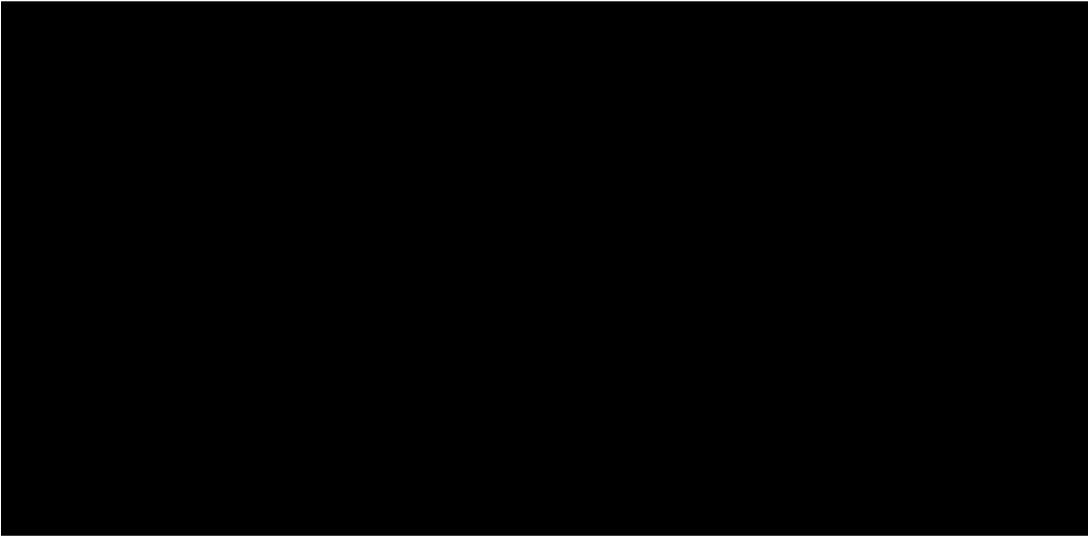
(8:30) "Great is Thy Faithfulness" (11:00) "I Heard An Owl"

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, blessing flows from you like a river. You fill our hearts with your goodness and our lives with good things. Open our hearts and our hands to be channels of that river, that blessing might flow through us and out to all who are searching, to all who are needful, to all who long for wholeness and peace. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

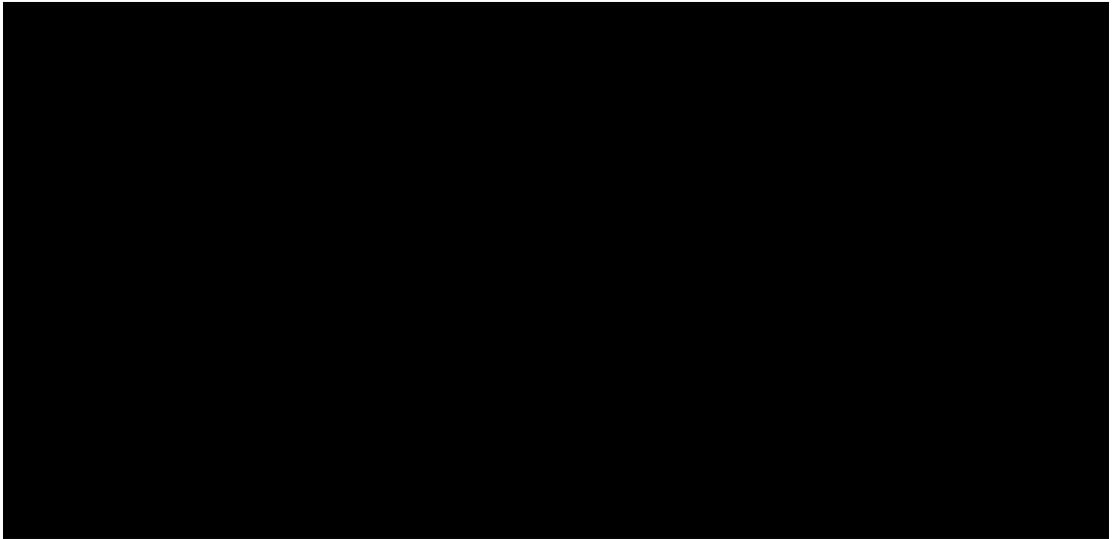
W. P. Sterneman III



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

W. P. Sterneman III



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

All are welcome to celebrate communion at Abiding Love. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. Take a cup of wine or grape juice from the tray. Children and adults not communing are welcome to receive a blessing. Please follow the direction of the ushers.

COMMUNION SONG

“Founded on Faith”



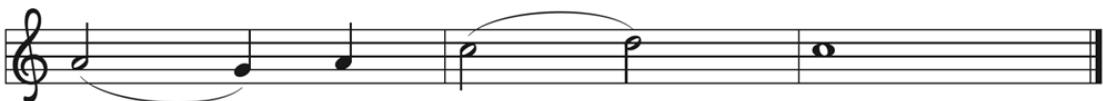
1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'ed to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
Em - pow'ed to serve with gifts, both great and small,
we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.



The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.
a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.
Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!



Al - le - lu - ia!

COMMUNION SONG

We Walk by Faith” #635

- 1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."
- 2 We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"
- 3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found:
- 4 For you, O resurrected Lord,
are found in means divine:
beneath the water and the word,
beneath the bread and wine.
- 5 And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

COMMUNION PRAYER

God of life, send us now into your world. Send us now to the lost and afraid. Send us to heal and to restore, to bring relief and to labor for justice. For we have been fed by the grace of your table, and we have gifts to share. Amen.

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

“Faith Begins By Letting Go”



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ry's roots a - live
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

PROCLAIMING OUR MISSION AND SHARING GOD'S PEACE

We go forth together, **sharing God's love!**

POSTLUDE



Always Reforming!

October 24 - *Christ Alone*
October 31 - *Semper Reformanda*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Setting and Safety Measures for Indoor Worship

Austin-Travis County is now in Stage 3 of COVID-19 risk-based guidelines. Abiding Love will continue to encourage masking, maintaining social distance, and frequent hand-washing and sanitizing, especially for those who are not yet vaccinated. We encourage those not able to worship in person to join in a livestream service at 8:30 am, available at abidinglove.org.

Submerge: October 17

In Zoom Submerge today at 1 PM, 4th and 5th graders will learn how God is with us. Like the Israelites at the Red Sea, we may face roadblocks in our lives. And like the Israelites, we need to remember to trust in God. Bible readings are Exodus 13: 21-22, 14: 5-16 and 21-31. Students will need play dough and their Hands-on Bible for the session. Contact Elaine Riggs, mikeriggs@sbcglobal.net.

Reformation Celebration: October 31

All are welcome to a gathering celebrating Reformation on Sunday, October 31, following the 11:00 am worship service, in the Activity Center. Come for lunch and fun to celebrate the season!

Christmas Cantata with the Choir

We are thrilled to be back and singing again on Sundays at the 8:30 am service. Now we get to start working on our Christmas Cantata for December 12. If you would like to sing for just the Cantata or every Sunday, contact Gus Sterneman, gsterneman@abidinglove.org or come to rehearsal Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Singers from high school through retirement are welcome. Assignment to vocal parts in all ALLC choirs is based strictly on vocal quality and range—gender is not a factor. All are welcome to sing with us.

Holiday Market: November 6

Abiding Love's Holiday Market will be November 6, 9:00 am till 3:00 pm in the Activity Center. Shop for handmade gifts, holiday décor, and baked goods!

Holiday Market Raffle Tickets

Two quilts and an advent calendar will be raffled at the November 6 Holiday Market. Tickets are one for \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20, on sale before and after worship, October 17, 24, and 31. Proceeds from the Holiday Market and raffle will benefit Women of Abiding Love ministry activities, New Life Children's Center, and the Travis County Community Center in Oak Hill.

SERVING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021

Preaching and Presiding Minister: Rev. Brad Highum
Altar Guild:(8:30) Georgia Wood, Billye Trostel (11:00) Denise Alaimo, Ruth Shane
Assisting Minister: (8:30) Audrey Lehman (11:00) Sue Milam
Communion Assistants:(8:30) Shelley Riedel (11:00) Lisa Krabbenhoff
Lector: (8:30) Rosa Hatfield (11:00) Sarah Pepin
Music Leaders: Noah Sonderling, Choir, Gus Sterneman
Ushers:(8:30) Lloyd Matthys, Paul Mettke (11:00) Kurt Armstrong, Steve Essinger

ABIDING LOVE CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)
9:45 am Faith Formation for All Ages

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18

11:00 am ALLC Food Pantry
6:00 pm Bread For All Food Pantry
6:45 pm Junia Café Group
7:00 pm AA (Music Room)
7:00 pm Sarah Circle
7:00 pm Troop 555 (AC)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19

10:30 am Tuesday Bible Study (Sanctuary)
12:00 pm Homelessness Documentary Study (Zoom)
7:00 pm Al-Anon (Music Room)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

7:15 am Women Alive (Zoom)
10:00 am Hannah Circle (Classroom)
10:00 am Staff Meeting (Classroom)
6:00 pm Music Rehearsals (Music Room and Sanctuary)
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21

10:00 am Quilters (Upstairs Commons)
6:30 pm Council (Zoom)
6:30 pm Stress Coping (MS Room)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22

5:30 pm GS Troop 44630 (Outside/Activity Center)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)
9:45 am Faith Formation for All Ages
12:00 pm Children and Youth Ministry Interview
4:00 pm OWLS (Activity Center)