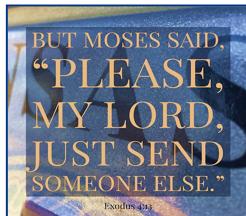


## **September 19, 2021**

### **17<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

***O my Lord, please send someone else." ~ Exodus 4:13***

Much of Scripture – Hebrew Testament and Christian Witness, alike – is filled with stories of people being called and sent by God. Sometimes they are people of extraordinary gifts, amplified as they are put to God's greater purposes. More often, they are people of no special qualification, even people of limited abilities. Our stories, like the Bible's central story, are expressions of our hearing and responding to God's call: to live out the Gospel in our own lives for the sake of others and the world God loves. All that is required is a willing heart.



## 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### September 19, 2021

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

**“What Does the Lord Require of You”**

**What does the Lord require of you?  
What does the Lord require of you?**

**Justice, kindness,  
walk humbly with your God.**

**To seek justice, and love kindness,  
and walk humbly with your God.**

#### WELCOME

#### LITANY

Day dawns on a world of fresh possibility.

**We awake to the sound of singing;  
all creation sings praise to the God of the morning.**

Night falls and steeps the world in shadow.

**The night brings rest in the presence of God and the promise of peace.**

But for so many, the spiraling world has scattered them far from the center of life.

**Darkness veils morning and evening alike.**

“Whom shall we send with our message of hope,” says the Lord?  
“Who will attend those who wander alone?”

**Lead me, Lord, and I will go. Here am I, Lord. Send me.**

- 1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
- 2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,  
we are the old who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.
- 3 Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
- 4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away—  
but here in this place the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

## 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.**

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart. **Amen.**

## 1 SAMUEL 3:2-11,3:19-4:1

<sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup> the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup> and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup> The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup> The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. <sup>10</sup> Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." <sup>11</sup> Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. <sup>19</sup> As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup> And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord. <sup>1</sup> And the word of Samuel came to all Israel.

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

## PSALM 40:5-10

<sup>5</sup> You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

**<sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.**

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, "Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

<sup>8</sup> I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

**<sup>9</sup> I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;  
see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.**

**<sup>10</sup> I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your  
faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love  
and your faithfulness from the great congregation.**

## **ACTS 7:30-34**

**<sup>30</sup> Now when forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in the flame of a burning bush. <sup>31</sup> When Moses saw it, he was amazed at the sight; and as he approached to look, there came the voice of the Lord: <sup>32</sup> 'I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.' Moses began to tremble and did not dare to look. <sup>33</sup> Then the Lord said to him, 'Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. <sup>34</sup> I have surely seen the mistreatment of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to rescue them. Come now, I will send you to Egypt.'**

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

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**"Guide My Feet"**

[Cantor] Guide my feet  
[all] **while I run this race**  
**Guide my feet while I run this race.**  
**Guide my feet while I run this race,**  
**for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

[Cantor] Stand by me  
[all] **while I run this race**  
**Stand by me while I run this race.**  
**Stand by me while I run this race,**  
**for I don't want to run this race in vain.**

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

## **LUKE 1:26-38**

**<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great,**

and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.<sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."<sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"<sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.<sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.<sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God."<sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SERMON

## TIME OF REFLECTION

### SONG OF THE DAY

"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" #659

- 1 Will you let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant, too.
- 2 We are pilgrims on a journey,  
we are trav'lers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.
- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the nighttime of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.
- 5 Will you let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant, too.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

**We believe in God, the Father Almighty  
Creator of the heavens and the earth;  
Creator of all peoples and all cultures;  
Creator of all tongues and races.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord,  
God made flesh in a person for all humanity,  
God made flesh in an age for all the ages,  
God made flesh in one culture for all cultures,  
God made flesh in love and grace for all creation.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit  
through whom God incarnate in Jesus Christ  
makes his presence known in our peoples and our cultures;  
through whom, God Creator of all that exists,  
gives us power to become new creatures;  
whose infinite gifts make us one people: the Body of Christ.**

**We believe in the Church  
universal because it is a sign of God's Reign,  
whose faithfulness is shown in its many hues  
where all the colors paint a single landscape,  
where all tongues sing the same praise.**

**We believe in the Reign of God--the day of the Great Fiesta  
when all the colors of creation will form a harmonious rainbow,  
when all peoples will join in joyful banquet,  
when all tongues of the universe will sing the same song.**

**And because we believe, we commit ourselves:  
to believe for those who do not believe  
to love for those who do not love,  
to dream for those who do not dream,  
until the day when hope becomes reality. Amen**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**“Psalm 23: The Lord is My Shepherd”**

Parker Bryant, Steven Bryant

**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

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.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** (Spoken together)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. 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

**“Build a Longer Table”**

1      **Build a longer table, not a higher wall,  
          feeding those who hunger, making room for all.  
          Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,  
          Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.**

- 2 Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;  
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.  
For any place where justice is denied,  
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.
- 3 Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.  
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.  
When we embrace compassion more than fear,  
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.
- 4 When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,  
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.  
So must our tables welcome those who roam.  
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

## COMMUNION SONG

- 1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?"
- 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

**Refrain**

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

- 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

## 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

- 1 **Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2 **Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**
- 3 **Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King; take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.**

**"Take My Life, That I May Be" #685**

- 4 **Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold; take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.**
- 5 **Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.**
- 6 **Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

## PROCLAIMING OUR MISSION AND SHARING GOD'S PEACE

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

## POSTLUDE

### ***Setting and Safety Measures for Indoor Worship***

Abiding Love will continue to gather for worship onsite Sundays, 8:30 and 11:00 am. The CDC has warned that individuals who are fully vaccinated can still be infected by the Delta variant and pass it on to others. The Abiding Love Council emphasizes the need to protect everyone by masking, maintaining social distance, and frequent hand-washing and sanitizing. Masks are recommended for all attending, regardless of risk or vaccination status. People who are not vaccinated or high-risk are strongly encouraged to avoid gatherings. We encourage those not able to worship in person to join in a livestream service at 8:30 am, available at [abidinglove.org](http://abidinglove.org).

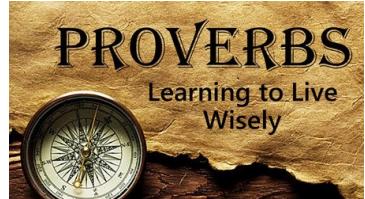
## ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

### ***Children's and Youth Director Candidate to Visit Today!***

Our Search Team is working with two outstanding candidates for our position as **Director of Children's and Youth Ministry**. One of our candidates, Shiloh Morris, will **worship with us at 11:00 am today**, then **gather with us at noon in the Sanctuary** for dialogue with the congregation. Come and meet Shiloh and join in the conversation on this vital ministry.

### *Living Wisdom*

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 in the Sanctuary. All are welcome.  
Text provided. No preparation necessary. Led by Pr. Brad.  
Come join us, anywhere along the journey!



### **Submerge Zoom: September 19**

Moses' mother loved him and wanted him to live. She did what she could, then trusted God to take care of the rest. Fourth and fifth graders are invited to Zoom Submerge at 1 PM today to learn how God was there for Moses and his mom. The Bible readings are from Exodus 1:15-17 and 2:1-10. Students will need play dough or legos and their Bibles for the 30 minute zoom session. Contact: Elaine Riggs [mikeriggs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mikeriggs@sbcglobal.net).

### **Choir is Back! September 22**

Music is selected and singing masks procured. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 22 at 7:00 PM. Contact Gus Sterneman, [gsterneman@abidinglove.org](mailto:gsterneman@abidinglove.org).

### **Walk to End Alzheimer's: September 25**

Held at Austin FC's Q2 Stadium with a virtual option available. Join or donate to our team: <http://act.alz.org/goto/AbidingLove>. Contact Carrie Steckl, [Carrie.Steckl@gmail.com](mailto:Carrie.Steckl@gmail.com).

### **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Chip in For Children Golf Tournament: October 4**

Onion Creek Golf Club. Tournament format will be a four-person scramble, featuring a lunch buffet, raffle, prizes, putting contest, Bubba drive, par 3 challenge and more! Golfers can register online: <https://tinyurl.com/89n7hnwv>. Golfer and Sponsor registration forms are available in the Narthex kiosk. Contact Nick Fisseler, [nfisseler@gmail.com](mailto:nfisseler@gmail.com).

## **SERVING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021**

Preaching and Presiding Minister: Rev. Brad Highum  
Altar Guild: (8:30) Margaret Dove, Di Brophy (11:00) Denise Alaimo  
Assisting Minister: (8:30) Gus Sterneman (11:00) Gus Sterneman  
Communion Assistants: (8:30) Audrey Lehman (11:00) Rosa Hatfield  
Lector: (8:30) Pat Dove (11:00) Sue Milam  
Music Leaders: Parker Bryant, Steven Bryant, Luciano Laurentiu, Gus Sterneman,  
Sound: (8:30) George Glaser (11:00) Cathy Cox  
Ushers: (8:30) Willie Haas, Marvin Haddock, Gerald Segner, Morris Thompson  
(11:00) Kurt Armstrong, Steve Essinger  
Video Streaming: (8:30) Karl Sterneman

## **ABIDING LOVE CALENDAR**

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

8:30 & 11:00 am     Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)  
9:45 am             Faith Formation for All Ages  
1:00 pm             Food Pantry Donation Drop-off (Activity Center)

### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

9:00 am             Audit (Library)  
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             Troop 555 (AC)  
7:00 pm             Sarah Circle

### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

9:00 am             Audit (Library)  
7:00 pm             Al-Anon (Music Room)

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

7:15 am             Women Alive (C)  
1:00 pm             Sew Bees Quilting (Classroom)  
6:00 pm             Music Rehearsals (Music Room and Sanctuary)  
7:00 pm             Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

6:30 pm             Stress Coping (MS Room)

### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

5:30 pm             GS Troop 44630

### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 Blessing of the Quilts**

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