



Rally Sunday **September 12, 2021, 8:30 am** **16th Sunday After Pentecost**

Jesus appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles to be sent out to proclaim the message.” ~ Mark 3:14

At a pivotal point in the Gospel, Jesus gathers those closest to him and gives them a new name: Apostles! No longer are they the students, the disciples, of the master. Rather, they become the “Sent Ones” of God; called in their own right to live into and live out their spiritual gifts as they share the good news of salvation in Christ. This pivotal point occurs in the lives of all believers as we, too, are commissioned as *Sent Ones*, to bear God’s saving grace to a world locked in struggle, conflict, anger and fear.



16th Sunday after Pentecost September 12, 2021, 8:30 am



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 steepers 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.

GATHERING SONG

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

#798

1 "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?"

4 "Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"

2 "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?"

5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

3 "Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?"

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.**

God of the harvest, you who have called us to discipleship, send us now as apostles. Lead us forth into the wider world to live out your teachings in active, vital ministry. **Amen.**

ISAIAH 6:1-8

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." ⁴ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" ⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

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

PSALM 107:1-9

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.
² **Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble**
³ and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
⁴ **Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town;**
⁵ hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.
⁶ **Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,**
and he delivered them from their distress;
⁷ he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.
⁸ **Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,**
for his wonderful works to humankind.
⁹ For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

HEBREWS 2:10-18

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." ¹³ And again, "I will put my trust in him." And

again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." ¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

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

JOHN 4:31-38

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

TIME OF REFLECTION

SONG OF THE DAY

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” #815

- 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

- 2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

- 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

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

"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

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

"For the Beauty of the Earth" #879

- 1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:**

- 2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain***

- 3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: *Refrain***

Refrain

**Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain*

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

5 For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n: *Refrain*

COMMUNION SONG

“As We Gather at Your Table” #522

1 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

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

- 1 **“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”**

- 2 **“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”**

- 3 **“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”**

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, both vaccinated and not vaccinated. The Abiding Love Council emphasizes the need to protect everyone by masking, maintaining social distance, and frequent hand-washing and sanitizing. Abiding Love recommends masks for all attending, regardless of vaccination or risk 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Rally Day! Sunday, September 12

Worship in the Sanctuary: 8:30 & 11:00 am

Livestream Worship Service: 8:30 am

Growing in Spirit: A Gathering for All Ages: 9:45 am in the Sanctuary

“Growing in Spirit” presentation of Fall programming for Godly Play, Submerge, Confirmation, High School and Adults. Back to School Blessing, Music and Activities for all ages, followed by refreshments in the Narthex.

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, Helen Pelkey, will **worship with us at 11:00 am today**, then **gather with us at noon in the Sanctuary** for dialogue with the congregation. Please come and meet Helen and join in the conversation on this vital Abiding Love ministry.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: In The Beginning: September 14

In many ways, Genesis is an overture to the whole of Scripture, Hebrew Testament and Christian Witness. For some it is held as a literal account of the Creation. For others it is a metaphorical tapestry that reaches for understanding into the mysteries of God, the cosmos and life itself. Gather with us **Tuesdays, 10:30 am** in the **Abiding Love Sanctuary** for **a close reading and discussion** of Genesis, led by Pr. Brad Highum. We will all mask, hand-sanitize and socially distance. No prep or previous study required.

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.

Walk to End Alzheimer's: September 25

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

14th 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.

SERVING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Preaching and Presiding Minister: Rev. Brad Highum

Altar Guild: (8:30) Margaret Dove, Amelia Mettke (11:00) Denise Alaimo

Assisting Minister: (8:30) Karron Lewis (11:00) Reggie Kikta

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Jan Haas (11:00) Marcilynn Parker

Lector: (8:30) Di Brophy (11:00) Bill Hatcher

Music Leaders: Gus Sterneman, Luciano Laurentiu, Mixed Blessings

Sound: (8:30) George Glaser (11:00) Matt Hohertz

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 12 Rally Day

- 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)
9:45 am Bible Boosters (Classroom)
9:45 am Growing in Spirit Gathering for all ages (Sanctuary)
1:00 pm Food Pantry Donation Drop-off (Activity Center)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

- 11:00 am **ALLC Food Pantry**
6:00 pm **Bread For All Food Pantry**
7:00 pm AA (Music Room)
7:00 pm Children's Outreach Ministries
7:00 pm Troop 555 (AC)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

- 10:30 am Tuesday Bible Study
7:00 pm Al-Anon (Music Room)
7:00 pm Ministry Round Table (Zoom)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

- 7:15 am Women Alive (C)
10:00 am Hannah Circle (Classroom)
10:00 am Staff Meeting (Library)
6:00 pm Music Rehearsals (Music Room and Sanctuary)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

- 6:30 pm Congregation Council (Zoom)
6:30 pm Stress Coping (MS Room)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- 12:30 pm Pack 12 Tiger Day (Activity Center)

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)