

+ Gathering +

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Gathering Song

#482

I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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**Greeting**

WOV p.46

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.**

You are the treasured people of the LORD,  
**a people holy to the Lord our God.**

Keep the words of the LORD in your heart; teach them to your children.

**Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.**

One does not live by bread alone,  
**but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

Scripture Song

WOV p.47



☒ Sal- va- tion be- longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for- ev- er and ev - er.



☐ Great and won- der- ful are your deeds, O God of the u- ni- verse;



just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na- tions.



Who can fail to hon- or you, Lord, and sing the glo- ry of your name?



☒ Sal- va- tion be- longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for- ev- er and ev - er.



☐ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All



na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,



for your just and ho - ly works have been re- vealed.



☒ Sal- va- tion be- longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for- ev- er and ev - er.

**Prayer of the Day**

p.47

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**+Word+**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**First Reading**

Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 103:1-13**

Let us recite together Psalm 103, verses 1 through 13, as printed in the hymnal:

- <sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- <sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—
- <sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;
- <sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;
- <sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- <sup>6</sup>O LORD, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- <sup>7</sup>You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.
- <sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
- <sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.
- <sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
- <sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
- <sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
- <sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

**Second Reading**

Romans 14:1-12

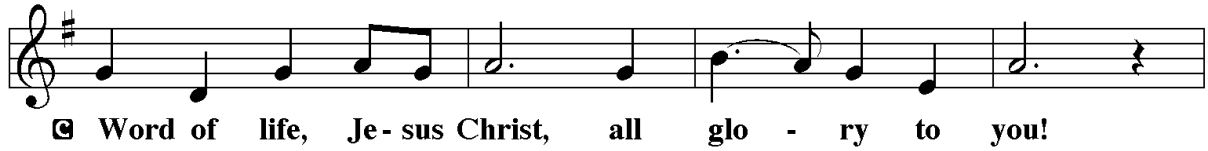
A reading from Romans:

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

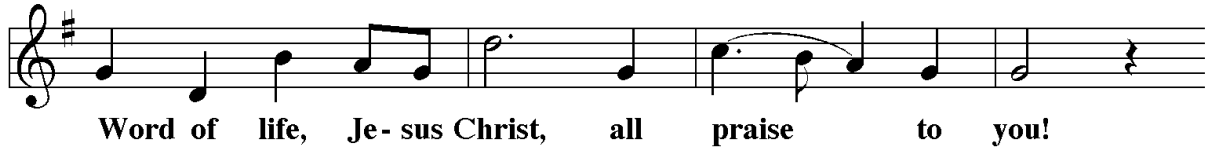
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

WOV p.48



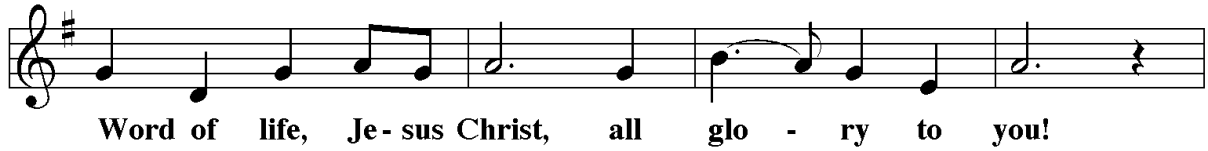
Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



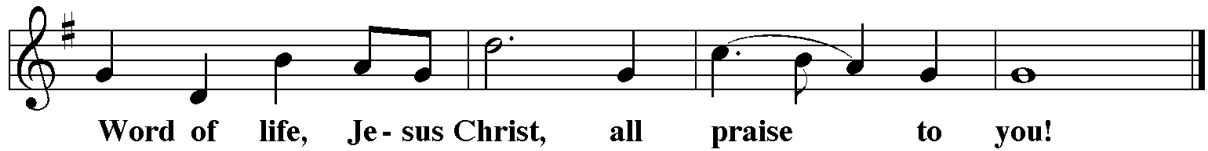
Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!



Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip- tures.



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

**Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 18: 21-35**

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

**Sermon**

The Rev. Leslie D. Weber



Song of the Day

#605

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart  
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:  
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.  
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!  
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.  
Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844  
Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

**Welcoming New Members to the Congregation**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

*Each new member/household is introduced*

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Siblings in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

*Those being welcomed respond:*

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

**Response to the Word**

WOV p.49

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;  
**pray in the Holy Spirit.**

Keep yourselves in the love of God;  
**look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:  
**Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.  
Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.  
*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen

**Peace**

WOV p.50

Siblings, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

+ Prayer +

**Offering**

*While we are not gathering together in person, please continue to support the mission of the church as you are able.*

*Electronic donations can be made at [https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/475611](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/475611).*

*Checks can be also be sent to church:  
521 Providence Rd, Chesapeake, VA 23325*

**Offering Prayer**

WOV p.51

Let us pray.

God, our Creator, you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need

*A brief silence.*

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts

with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. We pray especially those listed on our prayer list and those we name now aloud or silently (*pause for names*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

WOV p.52

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

**+Sending+**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**Blessing of Students & Teachers**

Let us pray for all who are beginning a new school year that both students and teachers will be blessed in their academic endeavors. Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge. Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight, and students the gift of diligence and openness, that all may grow in what is good and honest and true. Support all who teach and all who learn, that together we may know and follow your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Blessing**

WOV p.53

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing. **Amen.**

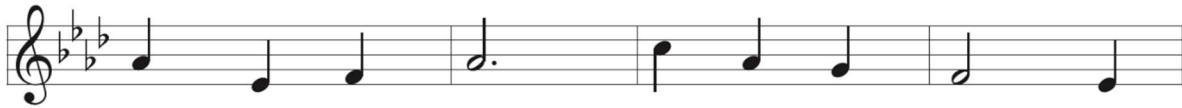
May the God of faithfulness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Sending Song**

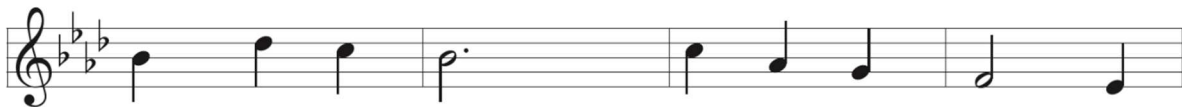
**God's Work, Our Hands**



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson

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15th Sunday After Pentecost —September 13, 2020—9:45am Worship via Zoom

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Do God's work with your hands. **Thanks be to God.**

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