

# Clamoring Crowds

July 18, 2021 – 10 a.m.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship



*Sadao Watanabe Sadao – Japanese washi*

## Sunday Worship online

**Outdoor worship** is on NFCC's Facebook page only.

**Indoor worship** is on NFCC's Facebook page and Zoom.

## Preparing for Worship

**For outdoor worship, please bring a chair and your coffee.**

**For indoor worship, please bring your mask.**

## Ministering to Us Today

*Rev. Christina Williams and Susan Rowitz, Deacon, will be leading us in worship today.*

*We are grateful to Babette Bach, Sarah Bach, and Alan King for providing the music,*

*and to Sarah Bach and Hope Oliveira for being our technical staff for the day.*

*Thank you for ministering to us in these ways.*

## MEDITATION

*“It’s easy to stand in the crowd, but it takes courage to stand alone. –Mahatma Gandhi*

## WE GATHER

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### GATHERING WORDS

**Pastor:** And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **C: And also with you.**

#### PRELUDE

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Sue Rowitz, Deacon*

L: God is for us in all times and places.

**P: May God’s love flow over and around us, lifting us in hope.**

L: Christ is with us, offering us lessons in living and serving.

**P: May our ears and hearts be opened to hear his words of encouragement.**

L: The Holy Spirit is within us, inspiring and comforting us.

**P: May the Spirit revive, renew, and rejuvenate us with every breath we take.**

L: Rejoice! Proclaim God’s Presence!

**P: Let our voices raise in joy! God, Christ, Spirit is with us!**

#### SONG FOR THE SEASON OF PENTECOST

“Lord, Prepare Me”

GTG #701

*If we are outside, you are invited to sing along.*

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary.

Pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving,

I’ll be a living sanctuary for you. *(Repeat 2 times)*

#### UNISON OPENING PRAYER

*Sue Rowitz, Deacon*

**The Word you spoke and keep speaking, O God, is the life, the sustenance of all that is—seen and unseen. The life you gave and keep giving, O Christ, is the recreation, the renewed birth of every broken, wounded, and sinful creature. The breath you breathed and keep breathing, O Spirit, is the inspiration for creativity, compassion, and community that connects and unites all that God has made. Life-giving, life-restoring, life-fulfilling God, our worship seeks to honor you, our hearts are devoted to you, and our lives are completely given over to you. Amen.**

#### OPENING HYMN

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

W&R #477

*If we are outdoors you are invited to sing along.*

# 477 Come and Find the Quiet Center

1 Come and find the qui - et cen - ter in the crowd - ed life we lead,  
 2 Si - lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,  
 3 In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth - er's pain,

find the room for hope to en - ter, find the frame where we are freed:  
 God it is who speaks and names us, knows our be - ing, touch - es base,  
 let our loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e - brate the space we gain:

clear the cha - os and the clut - ter, clear our eyes, that we can see  
 mak - ing space with - in our think - ing, lift - ing shades to show the sun,  
 there's a place for deep - est dream - ing, there's a time for heart to cure.

all the things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be,  
 rais - ing cour - age when we're shrink - ing, find - ing scope for faith be - gun,  
 in the Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing there is al - ways room to spare!

## WE PROCLAIM

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING** – Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

*Susan Rowitz, Deacon*

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or

farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

### **EPISTLE READING** – Ephesians 2:11-22

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, 16 and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

The liberating Word of God, for the people of God. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### **REFLECTION**

“Clamoring Crowds”

*Rev. Christina Williams*

### **ANTHEM**

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”  
Soloist: Alan King, tenor

African American spiritual

### **WE RESPOND**

### **JOYS & CONCERNS**

*For those online, you are invited to write the names of those you wish to lift in prayer and those joys you want to celebrate in the comments section. After a name(s) is spoken or when the pastor reads the names online, you are invited to respond, “**O Lord, hear our prayer.**”*

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

#### **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 of our daily bread, and forgive us of 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. Amen.**

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love had done:  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God, you both call us and confront us: the gifts we bring are only a small part of the multitude we receive from you. In the depth of our being, we know that in calling us, you seek our faith, our willingness, our conviction, and our very hearts. In gratitude, we offer our whole being to follow Jesus—bringing his hope and healing wherever we go. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

## WE GO FORTH

### CLOSING HYMN

“How Firm a Foundation” (vs. 1-3, 5)

NCH #407

If we are outside, *you are invited to sing along.*

#### FAITH

407

### How Firm a Foundation

Isa. 43:2-5; 2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5

\*K\* In John Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 178\* -

1 How firm a foundation for you has been laid,  
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed.  
3 "When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
4 "When through fiery trials your path-way shall lie,  
5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,  
by God in the Word, in the sac - ri - fice paid!  
for I am your God, I will still give you aid;  
the riv - ers of woe shall not o - ver you flow;  
my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;  
I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;  
What more can God say than to you has been said,  
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand  
For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,  
the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de - signed  
That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,  
to you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."  
de - liv - er - ing you from your deep - est dis - tress."  
your soul to make pure just as gold is re - fined."  
I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

## **SENDING**

Go to the deserted places and find sweet rest.  
Have compassion for the unwelcomed and unwanted.  
Be fully present with those who seek your attention.  
In all things, let the Spirit of the Lord abide within you.

## **POSTLUDE**

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**The altar flowers today are from the beautiful gardens of Rin Morway.**