

What Would Love Do Now?
Season of Pentecost, Sunday – August 30, 2026

MEDITATION

“When you continue to be irritated by someone who refuses to change, you also refuse to change.” - Bhavna Karnani Killa

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

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

PRELUDE

“Minuet in G”

J. S. Bach

Guest pianist: Clara Jech

CALL TO WORSHIP

Melessa Fox, Deacon

L: We come as we are—whole and wounded, certain and questioning, hopeful and tired.

All: And God meets us here.

L: We are called to step into the work of love

All: May our love be more than words. May it become a way of life.

L: May we honor the dignity of every person

All: May we practice compassion across every difference that seeks to divide us.

L: When we are tempted to answer hatred with hatred

All: We will choose another way.

L: The God who called Moses still calls us.

All: Into courage. Into community. Into liberation. Into love.

***SONG OF REJOICING**

“Rejoice in the Lord Always” 2x

In Pew

UNISON OPENING PRAYER

Melessa Fox, Deacon

God of questions and possibility, we come into this moment exactly as we are. In the middle of busy lives, uncertainty, and change, remind us that we are not alone. When we feel overwhelmed by the needs of our world, give us courage to believe that our lives and our choices matter. Help us choose goodness when it is easier to turn away. We bring our questions. We bring our doubts. We bring our hopes. And when we ask, “Who am I?” remind us that the answer begins not with our limitations, but with your presence. I AM. And because you are with us, we can take the next step. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

"Gather Us In"

Insert

WORD FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Lisa Allen, Co-Church Life Director

ANTHEM

"All Night, All Day/This Little Light of Mine/All Night, All Day"

*African American Spirituals
Sung by Bella and Paul Smith*

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Exodus 3:1-15, p. 62; Romans 12:9-21, p. 197

Melessa Fox, Deacon

L: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

"What Would Love Do Now?"

Lisa Allen

RESPONSIVE HYMN

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Black 23

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After the pastoral prayer, you are invited to share your joys or concerns out loud during the prayers of the people. Please respond, "O Lord, hear our prayers."

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

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. All are invited to sing "Amen". (Black 812)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Prelude in C"

J. S. Bach

Guest pianist: Clara Jech

***DOXOLOGY**

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

***UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Generous God we give today not because we fear we will not have enough, but because we believe there is enough when we share. May our giving reflect the kind of community we hope to be—generous, inclusive, compassionate, and committed to the flourishing of all. Bless these gifts and bless those who give them. Use what we offer to bring healing, hope, and possibility into our world. And remind us that our greatest offering is not simply what we place in the offering plate, but how we live our lives each day. May our love be genuine, our generosity abundant, and our hands ready to serve. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Called as Partners in Christ's Service” v.1-3

Black 495

***BLESSING**

SUNG BENEDICTION

“May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You”

Words/Music: Meredith Willson

**Congregation is invited to sing*

May the Good Lord Bless and Keep you, Whether near or far away, May you find that long awaited Golden day today. May your troubles all be small ones and your fortunes ten times ten, May the good Lord bless and keep you til we meet again. **Chorus:** May you walk with sunlight shining and a bluebird in every tree, May there be a silver lining back of every cloud you see. Fill your dreams with sweet tomorrows, Never mind what might have been, May the good Lord bless and keep you til we meet again.

POSTLUDE

“Behold Our God”

Music: Stephen Altrogge, Jonathan, Ryan and Meghan Baird

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Many thanks to the volunteers who enriched our morning together!

Tech Deacon, Amelia Allen; Choir (to resume in September); Hospitality, Sue Long; Food Donation, Janet King

Leading worship today: Lisa Allen, Co-Church Life Director; Stephanie Miles, Music Director; Melessa Fox, Deacon

Thank you to Guest Pianist: Clara Jech

NEW HERE TODAY?

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!
To help you navigate Sunday mornings with us, please see the guide below.*

1. **Order of Worship:** **An asterisk is an invitation to stand if you are able.
Bold text indicates speaking in unison.*
2. **Kid's Connection:** *After the "Word for all God's children," the children leave worship for Bible-themed learning through crafts, conversation, and games with Lisa Allen.*
3. **Take Two:** *This adult faith formation group meets after worship every other Sunday with Lisa Allen. Join the conversation this Sunday in the small classroom.*
4. **Summer Refreshments & Conversation:** *Gather with us after worship to greet friends and make new ones in the Covenant Room, down the hall on the right.*
5. **Have Questions?** *Please reach out to the Deacon of the day.*

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