

Getting Perspective by Slowing Down
Season of Pentecost, Sunday – August 9, 2026

MEDITATION

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Open us to your life giving Word. Quiet the voices within us that do not align with your will. Focus our minds on the message you intend for us so we may faithfully discern your way.

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

“F # Major Prelude”

*Music: Johann Sebastian Bach
Guest Pianist: Fletcher Calderbank*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Thomas, Deacon

L: Upon Mount Horeb, Elijah heard the voice of God, not in the wind, or the earthquake, or the fire, but in the sound of sheer silence.

All: Holy God, quiet our minds and our hearts, rid us of distraction, so we can hear you and know you among us.

***SONG OF REJOICING**

“Rejoice in the Lord Always” 2x

In Pew

RESPONSIVE OPENING PRAYER

Linda Thomas, Deacon

L: God our refuge, you hear our cries for mercy. You know our exhaustion, our cynicism, our sense of defeat.

All: You lift the lowly and offer hope to the hopeless. But we are quick to lose perspective and exaggerate critique.

L: We confess the ways we are tempted to give up on the path of righteousness. We pray for your forgiveness.

All: God help us to not fear, for we have been redeemed and are forgiven. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Let Us with a Joyful Mind”

Black 16

WORD FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Lisa Allen, Co-Church Life Director

ANTHEM

"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" (3 vs)

*Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, Lyrics: Louisa M. R. Stead
Sung by Paul and Bella Smith*

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18, p. 404

Linda Thomas, Deacon

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

REFLECTION

"Getting Perspective by Slowing Down"

Rev. Eric Stroshine

RESPONSIVE HYMN

"Dear God, Embracing Humankind"

Black 502

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

"Be Still, My Soul" *Music: Jean Sibelius, Lyrics: Jim Reeves*

Arr: Linda Pratt, Guest Pianist: Fletcher Calderbank

**Congregation is invited to sing.*

*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**

Gracious God, the gifts we offer reflect only a portion of all that you have given us. Take these offerings, we pray, and multiply them for your use. May our offerings be a blessing to those most in need, to those most vulnerable. May our offerings, given in a spirit of generosity, abate the desire to hoard, and spread the desire to share. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Be Still, My Soul”

Black 488

***BLESSING**

SUNG BENEDICTION “May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You” *Music: Meredith Willson*
Guest Pianist: Fletcher Calderbank

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

“Fugue BWV 858”

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach
Guest Pianist: Fletcher Calderbank

**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, Jean Swartz;
Food Donation Rosemary Carey

Leading worship today: Rev. Eric Stroshine, Minister; Stephanie Miles, Music Director;
Lisa Allen, Co-Church Life Director; Linda Thomas, Deacon

Thank you to Guest Pianist Fletcher Calderbank

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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