



*A Service for the Worship of God*

**Ninth Sunday After Pentecost**

**July 25, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.**

**PREPARATION FOR AT HOME WORSHIP**

*Please set out a candle that you can light as we light the Christ Candle during worship.*

**Prelude**

*Jim Pera*

**Welcome and Announcements**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

*Gretchen Cleaves*

**\*Call to Worship**

*One: For cool mornings and rumbling afternoon storms,  
for amazing days and ordinary evenings,  
for deep friendships and shallow wading pools:*

**All: thanks be to God!**

*One: For the laughing God who tickles us with joy,  
for the broken-hearted Love who joins in our struggles:*

**All: thanks be to God!**

*One: For the Bread of Heaven who feeds us hope,  
for the Spirit of grace who teaches us to dance:*

**All: thanks be to God!**

**\*Hymn # 687**

**“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”**

*omit verse 2*

**Prayer of Confession †**

*in unison*

Holy God, you must shake your head in wonder at us! How can we say we want wisdom when we foolishly squander the knowledge of what Jesus taught us through his life and work? How can we claim to follow you when we walk the slippery roads of the world, not caring where they lead us? How can we desire your great and steadfast love when we so easily trip over the temptations of the world? In your mercy, forgive us. Turn our greed into gratitude, our pettiness into praise, and our selfishness into thanksgiving. Help us to treasure the time you give us and use it wisely

*(Silence for personal reflection and confession.) Amen.*

## Assurance of Forgiveness

*One: Out of our lives, laced with foolish mistakes and unwise choices,*

**All: God is able to weave a tapestry of grace, forgiveness, and healing.**

*One: For God's love that will not let us go,*

**All: we give thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*Response to Forgiveness**      "Come and Fill Our Hearts"      *Hymn # 466*      *Sing twice*

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
Al-le-lu -ia!

## \*Passing of the Peace

*One: The Peace of Christ be with you.*

**All: And also with you.**

## Prayer for Illumination

*Gretchen Cleaves*

## Scripture Reading

1 Kings 2: 10-12, 3: 3-13

## Children's Message

## Anthem

"Christ has Broken Down the Wall"  
*Mark Miller*

*Vocal Ensemble*

## Scripture Reading

Ephesians 5: 15-20

## Sermon

**"Wasting Time?"**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

## Music

"Seasons of Love" from *Rent*  
*Words and Music by Jonathon Larson, Arranged by Roger Emerson*

*Vocal Ensemble*

**\*Affirmation of Faith**      *in unison*

*Steve Davis*

*Adapted from A Brief Confession of Faith of the PC(USA)*

In life and death, we belong to God. We trust in one God, the Holy One, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ. Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain, and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the powers of sin and evil, delivering us from death to eternal life.

We trust in the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The spirit justifies us by grace through faith, and sets us free to accept ourselves, and to love God and neighbor. In gratitude to God we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks, and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come Lord Jesus!

**\*Hymn # 719**

"Come, Labor On"

## \*Presentation of Offerings

*Those who are worshipping in the Sanctuary are invited to leave an offering either in the offering container in the narthex or in the offering box in front of the left front pew.*

*If you would like to give online, please go to [www.sminster.com/give](http://www.sminster.com/give) where you can give once or set-up a reoccurring monthly offering to the church. You also can mail your offering to the church or drop it off in the office.*

**\*Presentation Hymn # 607**

“Doxology”

*Inclusive Version*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

**Joys and Concerns**

*Steve Davis*

**Prayers of the People and the 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 our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

**\*Hymn # 686**

“God of Our Life”

**\*Benediction**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**\*Postlude**

*Jim Pera*

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*



*The flowers were given to the glory of God  
by Jim Combs in memory of his wife, Polly.*

*†Prayer of Confession written by Thom Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies, 2004, used by permission.*