

An Order for the Worship of God

15th Sunday after Pentecost September 13, 2020 10:45 a.m. Live-Stream

Gathering Music (10:30)

Mrs. Trish Foy

Invocation

Voluntary Adagio on *Ode to Joy* C. Callahan

Call to Worship Jonathan McNair

Leader: Welcome to you, the strong and the weak.

All: **Christ Jesus welcomes us here.**

Leader: Welcome to you, sinners and saints.

All: **God's grace embraces us all.**

Leader: Welcome to you, forgiven and forgiving.

All: **The Spirit binds us in unity and love.**

Hymn 89 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!

Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within it span.

Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

(Words: Henry Van Dyke, 1907; st. 4 alt. 1989)

Epistle Lesson (CEB) Romans 14:1-12

Prayer

**Holy God, we thank you that you receive us
not according to our failing goodness,
but according to your overflowing grace.**

You receive us as we are.

You show us what we can be.

**Live within us, that we may be filled
with your love and compassion.**

**Work in our lives that we may forgive
as we have been forgiven,
that we may welcome**

**as we have been welcomed,
that we may accept and love
as abundantly as we have been accepted
and loved by you.**

In your gracious name, we pray. Amen.

Song *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* J. Purifoy
James Harr, solo

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner and more graces for the good.
There is mercy with the Savior, there is healing in his blood.

But we make his love too narrow by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness with a zeal he will not own.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of one's mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple, we could take him at his word;
and our lives would be more loving in the likeness of our Lord.

(Words by Frederick W. Faber, 1854)

Children's Time

Concerns and Celebrations

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Laura Shearer

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon *Kingdom Forgiveness* Rev. Will Lauderback

Hymn 560 *Help Us Accept Each Other*

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

*(Words by Fred Kaan, 1974, © 1975 Hope Publishing Co. Used by
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Benediction

Voluntary Gigue on *Ode to Joy* C. Callahan

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