



# Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023

\* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "Come, Thou fount of Every Blessing"  
Tune: *Nettleton*

John Carter;

## Gathering

WELCOME & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Acolyte: May the Holy Spirit unit us in worship, point us toward Jesus Christ, and inspire us to love mercy, do justice, and walk humbly with God. Come, let us worship God.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

**All:** **You search out my path and are acquainted with all my ways.**

Liturgist: Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

**All:** **You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.**

Liturgist: Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?  
*Psalm 139:1-7 adapted*

\* **All Singing:** **565 "God Himself is With Us"**

\* GOD'S GREETING

\* GOD'S PEOPLE GREETING ONE ANOTHER

\* **All Singing:** **246 "God is Here"**

*Children ages 2–7 may come forward for a brief word and blessing before they leave for “God Loves Me” and “Children in Worship.”*

#### CHILDREN’S BLESSING

Children: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## Reconciliation

Liturgist: If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in *Sheol*, you are there.  
If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

**All: If I say “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me, even the darkness will not be dark to you and the night will shine like day.**

Liturgist: For you created my inmost being; and you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

**All: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful.**

Liturgist: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.  
See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.  
*Psalm 139:8-14, 23, 24 adapted*

#### *Silent Confession and Reflection*

**All Singing: “Trisagion”** Fernando Ortega

**Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy Immortal One,  
Have mercy, have mercy on us.**

Liturgist: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

**All: For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;**

Liturgist: the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

**All: We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope, we were saved.**

Liturgist: Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?

**All: But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.**  
*Romans 8:18-25*

\* **All Singing: 351 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**  
*Singing verses 1, 2, and 4*

## Proclamation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**All:** Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Scripture: Genesis 28:10-19

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Places in the Heart

\* **All Singing:** 532 “Be Still for the Presence”

## Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist: With joy, let us now offer our gifts, in music, heart, and resource, as a sign of our deep devotion and covenant faithfulness.

OFFERING

1. General Fund
2. Chicagoland Prison Outreach

OFFERTORY “The Love of God”

Jeanne Cotter

\* **All Singing:** 965 “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## Sending

\* BENEDICTION

\* **All Singing:** “Father Let Your Kingdom Come”

Porter’s Gate

**Hallelu, hallelujah**  
**Father, let your kingdom come (x4)**

**May the works of my hands bring You joy (x4)**  
*Refrain*

**May the words from my mouth speak your peace (x4)**  
*Refrain*

**You make all things new, You make all things new**  
**In places we don’t choose, You make all things new**  
*Refrain*

Postlude

### Worship Leaders

Organist / Pianist: Dora Diephouse

Pianist / Vocalist: Erin Pacheco

Guitarist / Vocalist: Moises Pacheco

Vocalist: Sarah Rinkenberger

Violinist: Frances Boerman-Cornell

Percussion: Eric Robbert

Minister: Roger Nelson

Acolyte: Beckham Van Wyngarden

Liturgist: Reese Hulford

Prayer: Jim Sluis

Hymns are from *Lift Up Your Hearts* (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2013)  
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