



# Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 2023

\* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "You Are My All in All" with "I Love You, Lord" arr. Christopher Phillips

## 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: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us – that the way of God may be known upon earth, and his saving power among all nations.

**All: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

Liturgist: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

**All: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

Liturgist: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

**All: May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere the Lord.**

*Psalm 67:1-7 adapted*

\* **All Singing: 593 "Lord Most High"**

\* GOD'S GREETING

\* GOD'S PEOPLE GREETING ONE ANOTHER

\* **All Singing: 571 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"**  
*Singing verses 1, 3, 4, and 5*

*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: Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

**All:** **And what of the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast thy covenant – what of them?**

Liturgist: These I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

**All:** **Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.** *Isaiah 56:1,6-8 adapted*

#### *Silent Confession and Reflection*

**All Singing:** **663 “For the Troubles”**  
*Singing twice*

Reader: As Jesus came to the district of Tyre and Sidon, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.”

But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”

She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

*Matthew 15:21-28*

Liturgist: The Apostle Paul writes, I ask, then, has God rejected his people?

**All:** **By no means! God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.**

Liturgist: Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy.

**All:** **For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.**  
*Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 adapted*

\* **All Singing:** **670 “I Waited Patiently for God”**

## Proclamation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**All:** **God, our helper, by your Holy Spirit open our minds and lead us into your truth for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Scripture: Genesis 45:1-15

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: What the Lord is Up To

\* **All Singing:** **“Sovereign Over Us”** A. Keyes  
*Soloist singing verses; all joining in the rest, as able*

There is strength within the sorrow, there is beauty in our tears  
And You meet us in our mourning with a love that casts out fear  
You are working in our waiting, sanctifying us  
When beyond our understanding, you're teaching us to trust

**Your plans are still to prosper, you've not forgotten us  
You're with us in the fire and the flood  
Faithful forever, perfect in love, you are sovereign over us**

You are wisdom unimagined—who could understand Your ways?  
Reigning high above the heavens, reaching down in endless grace  
You're the lifter of the lowly, compassionate and kind  
You surround and you uphold me and your promises are my delight

**Even what the enemy means for evil, you turn it for our good  
You turn it for our good and for Your glory  
Even in the valley you are faithful; you're working for our good  
You're working for our good and for Your glory**

## Dedication

A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

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. By the Hand Club for Kids

OFFERTORY

\* **All Singing:** **953 “Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God”**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## Sending

\* BENEDICTION

\* **All Singing:** **926 “God of Grace and God of Glory”**  
*Singing verses 1, 3, and 4*

Postlude

**Worship Leaders**

Organist / Pianist: Dora Diephouse  
Pianist / Vocalist: Erin Pacheco  
Vocalist: Aron Reppmann  
Cellist: Adeline Larsen  
Guitarist / Vocalist: Clay Carlson  
Percussion: Eric Robbert  
Minister: Roger Nelson

Acolyte: Cora Varghese  
Liturgist: Steve Bender  
Prayer: Mary Bender  
Reader: Melissa Varghese

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5825 W 151st Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452  
[www.hope-crc.org](http://www.hope-crc.org)