



# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## September 17, 2023

\* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "Let All Things Now Living"

Traditional Welsh

### Gathering

WELCOME & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Acolyte: May the Holy Spirit unite 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

Choir: "Bunessan: Wondrous the Joy of Singing Together" arr. Berg

Wondrous the joy of singing together,  
Blending the voice in anthem and hymn;  
Joining as one in sacred endeavor,  
Strengthening lives without and within.

Melody found in unison singing,  
Harmony bound in strengthening chords;  
Joyous the choir whose purpose is bringing  
Praises to Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Praise God from whom flows every blessing,  
Praise him all creatures singing below.  
Praise him above ye heavens confessing,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

\* GOD'S GREETING

\* GOD'S PEOPLE GREETING ONE ANOTHER

\* **All Singing:** **551** “**All Creatures of Our God and King**”  
*Singing verses 1, 2, 3, and 5*

#### CHILDREN’S BLESSING

Children: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

## Reconciliation

Liturgist: The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

**All:** **Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.**

*Exodus 14:19-20*

Liturgist: Lord just as you delivered Israel so too deliver us.

**All:** **Deliver us Lord, from fear and flimsy faith; deliver us from greed and gluttony; deliver us from indifference and self-absorption; deliver us from sin that weighs down and sin that we hardly notice.**

Liturgist: Lord have mercy; forgive us our sins even as we forgive those who sin against us.

#### *Silent Confession and Reflection*

Liturgist: If you declare with your mouth that “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. As scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.”

**All:** **For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”**

*Romans 10:9-13*

\* **All Singing:** **693** “**Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)**”  
*Singing verses 1 – 4; Singing refrain after 2 and 4*

Liturgist: Romans 14:1-12

## Proclamation

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**All Singing:** **754** “**Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak**”  
*Singing verses 1, 3, and 5*

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

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

Sermon: Impractical Jesus

\* **All Singing:** **689** “**There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy**”

## Dedication

WORD OF BLESSING  
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. Calvin Seminary

### OFFERTORY

Choir: "My God is an Awesome God" Hampton

My God is an awesome God. Hallelujah! Let's give him the praise.  
His wondrous acts let us proclaim.  
The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,  
the world and they that dwell therein.

God sent me to a distant land, and he showed his greatness and majesty.  
I was an empty cup and he made me full, and he ordained me to do his will.

God is good; he's always right on time.  
Let's take the time to glorify the Lord. Hold on and never let go.  
He is our friend indeed. Let's tell the world that he is our God.

For He hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.  
Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and the King of glory shall come in.  
The Lord is strong and mighty in battle.  
Send me. Anoint me. Use me Lord.

### DOXOLOGY

- \* **All Singing:** **551 "All Creatures of Our God and King"**  
*Singing verse 6*

## Sending

- \* BENEDICTION

- \* **All Singing:** **904 "Lord, Make Us Servants"**  
*Singing verses 1, 3, 4 and 5*

Postlude: "I Will Sing Unto the Lord" Israeli folk song

### Worship Leaders

Organist:	Dora Diephouse	Acolyte:	Moriah Dykstra
Pianist / Vocalist:	Erin Pacheco	Liturgist:	Karis Dykstra
Vocalist:	Chris Gabrielse	Prayer:	Bob Rice
Guitar:	Ty Hillegonds	Choir Director:	David Baar
Percussion:	Clay Carlson	Choir Accompanist:	Beverly Baar
Minister:	Roger Nelson		

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