

August 25, 2024; 9:00 am
Summer Series: "Seeds of Faith – Created for Growth"

We Gather Together

Welcome to today's Service of Worship. We are glad you are here. Please use the time before worship to fill in a Friendship Pad around you. We extend a special welcome to our visitors, and if you have not already received your welcome gift, please pick one up as you leave worship today.

Prelude: Thy Word

arr. by Phillip Keveren

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

Ringling of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ

The Parable of the Sower: Mark 4:1-20 (First Nations Version)

***Call to Worship**

Wendy P., liturgist

(Written by Henrietta Stith Andrews; inspired by Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7)

A word of encouragement came from prophet to people;

Live a life that is full – build, plant, eat, love, multiply--

Pray for your communities

Keep God in the center of all that is.

We enter into worship today with hope in our hearts

For something happens here

that reminds us that we can live as God desires

God has made a promise of faithfulness to us

and we can trust the promise.

*** Opening Prayer**

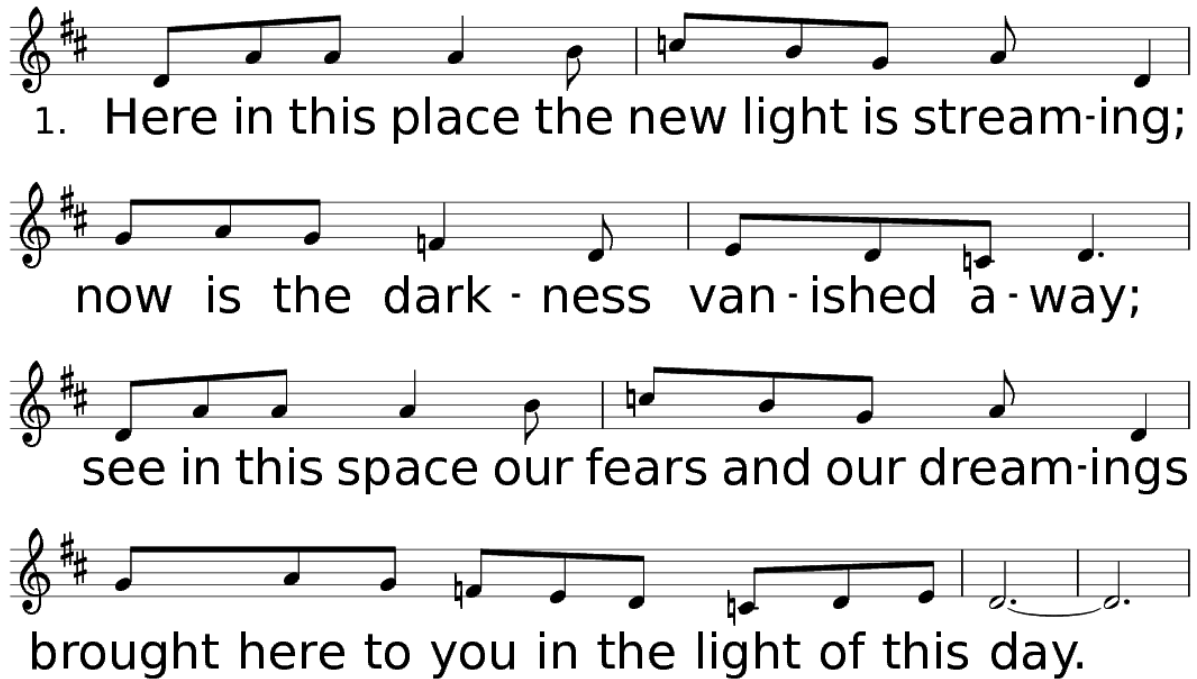
Help us to walk by faith, O God, not by sight. Be our vision, Holy One, for without vision your people perish. Remind us that you do not see as mortals see, for you do not judge by outward appearances, but look on the heart. With our eyes of faith enlightened, help us see your kingdom in a tiny mustard seed, and marvel at the growth you offer to all through the power of your Spirit.

Amen.

***Sung Response: GTG 401 “Here in this Place” (vs. 1, 2, and 4)**
Laurie C., Cantor


Here in This Place

Glory to God #401




1. Here in this place the new light is stream-ing;
now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way;
see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
brought here to you in the light of this day.


TEXT: Marty Haugen, 1979; © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.
MUSIC (GATHER US IN 10.9.10.10.D): Marty Haugen, 1979; © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.




Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en;
gath-er us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.




2. We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.




Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty;



gath-er us in, the proud and the strong;



give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;



give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.



4. Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing,



not in some heav - en, light years a-way:



here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er;
gath-er us in and make us your own;
gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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***Call to Confession**

Wendy P.

“Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Lest us rest in God’s mercy as we pray together.”

***Prayer of Confession**

Wendy P.

Adapted from a prayer written by Moira Laidlaw

Merciful God, you plant each of us like seeds in the same field and together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun. We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain. We are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be.

When we deprive others of that same opportunity, forgive us.

When we want to uproot those whom we believe do not belong in our part of the field, forgive us.

When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat, forgive us.

When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives to see what is growing there, forgive us.

Silent Confession

(In the silence of our hearts we confess our sins to God.)

O God, you know us inside and out, through and through.

You search us out and lay your hand upon us. You know what we are going to say even before we speak. So we pray that you will help us to reach out to the uprooted and rejected, the lonely and the outcast, and to develop and grow the good in ourselves, in others and in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

***Assurance of Pardon**

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast:

Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, was buried, and raised on the third day.

As his witnesses, know that you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Sharing God's Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

*(Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you using the ancient formula 'The Peace of Christ.' 'And also, with you.' Please be mindful of those who do not wish to shake hands or be too close. **We encourage you to use this time to send a text or emoji to someone who cannot be here.**)*

***Sung Response: GTG 581 "Glory Be to the Father"**

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther,
and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost;
as it was in the be - gin - ning,

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC (GLORIA PATRI (Greateorex)): Henry W. Greateorex, 1851

is now, and ev - er shall be,
world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

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God's Word Is Proclaimed

Psalm Reading: Psalm 119:105-120 (Common English Bible)
(page 569 in the pew Bible, page 763 Common English Bible)

Your word is a lamp before my feet
and a light for my journey.

I have sworn, and I fully mean it:

I will keep your righteous rules.

I have been suffering so much—

Lord, make me live again according to your promise.

Please, Lord, accept my spontaneous gifts of praise.

Teach me your rules!

Though my life is constantly in danger,

I won't forget your Instruction.

Though the wicked have set a trap for me,

I won't stray from your precepts.

Your laws are my possession forever

because they are my heart's joy.

I have decided to keep your statutes forever, every last one.

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 (Common English Bible)

(page 731 in the pew Bible, page 956 Common English Bible)

The prophet Jeremiah sent a letter from Jerusalem to the few surviving elders among the exiles, to the priests and the prophets, and to all the people Nebuchadnezzar had taken to Babylon from Jerusalem.

The Lord of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims to all the exiles I have carried off from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and settle down; cultivate gardens and eat what they produce. Get married and have children; then help your sons find wives and your daughters find husbands in order that they too may have children. Increase in number there so that you don't dwindle away. Promote the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because your future depends on its welfare.

The Lord of heavenly forces, the God of Israel, proclaims: Don't let the prophets and diviners in your midst mislead you. Don't pay attention to your dreams. They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I didn't send them, declares the Lord.

The Lord proclaims: When Babylon's seventy years are up, I will come and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me. I will be present for you, declares the Lord, and I will end your captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have scattered you, and I will bring you home after your long exile, declares the Lord.

Children's Time: Blessing of the Backpacks

Leader: Lord God, today we gather to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. It is a day filled with joy and excitement as well as uncertainty and wonder. God of knowledge and wisdom, we pray for our schools that they may be lively centers for learning and new discovery. We pray also for our places of work, that our time laboring may be fruitful and enriching.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, as we begin this year, give us all open minds and open hearts to learn and experience more fully the majesty of the world You have created. Give us peace when we feel nervous, focus when we feel distracted and energy when we feel tired.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, bless these backpacks and the children and youth who carry them. Guide them in making good choices as they grow in wisdom and maturity. Be ever present with them in the classroom or lesson, on the school bus, the athletic field, the playground, after-school jobs and at home; may they feel Your loving care in all they do.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord we ask for your blessing on these tags, may they remind us that we are never alone; that You are willing to help us carry the heavy loads we encounter; and that You want to work through us to help each other through these times of struggle.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, bless all who will teach us in the coming days and weeks and months. Give them the wisdom to find inspiration for each child. Give them the energy, creativity and love that will make their work a blessing to our children.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, bless all educational staff that they may be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to their care. Guide them to do their crucial work with a spirit of grace and compassion.

All: Hear our prayer.

All: God of wisdom and knowledge, bless these backpacks, book bags, briefcases and totes and the students, teachers, and workers who carry them. Remind us that You are always with us. Fill us ALL with the joy of learning new things so that we may be better equipped to follow and serve You in all we do. Amen.

Hymn: GTG 458 “Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet”

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid,
and I think I’ve lost my way,
still you’re there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear
as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

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Sermon: “Removing the Thorns”

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

Prayers of the People

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.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

We Respond to God's Word

The Practice of Gratitude

In response to God's Word and remembering all things come from God, we offer with thanks a portion of that which God has entrusted to us. The ushers will collect God's tithes and our offerings. For those who have given in other forms, there are cards in the pew racks that you may use as a tangible action of gratitude to God. No matter what we return to God in material forms, may we spiritually place our hearts, and our very lives, in God's hands, to be re-shaped for ministry in Christ, furthering God's kingdom here on earth.

Offering Music: "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" Laurie C., Cantor

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.*

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord let my heart,
Lord let my heart be good soil.*

***Offertory: GTG 607 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

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

***Offertory Prayer**

***Hymn: GTG 694 “Great God of Every Blessing” (vs. 1 & 2)**

Great God of Every Blessing

Glory to God #694



1. Great God of ev - ery bless - ing,
of faith - ful, lov - ing care,
you are the fount of good - ness,
the dai - ly bread we share.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: "1. Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care, you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share."

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009; © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)
MUSIC (AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D): Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864



How can we hope to thank you?
Our praise is but a start:
sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly
I of - fer you my heart.



2. Your Word is our sal - va - tion,
the source of end - less grace,
in death and life ex - tend - ing
your cov - e - nant em - brace.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Great God of Every Blessing'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'In Christ we are one body; each member has a part: sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

In Christ we are one bod - y;
each mem - ber has a part:
sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly
I of - fer you my heart.

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***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude: "The Church's One Foundation"

arr. by Albert Beck

Keep In Prayer

Arnold L.	Danielle B.	Lynn M.
Ashley K.*	Dick and Maryann*	Marie L.
Bob & Ollive B.	Gib D.	Mike S.*
Brian C.	Jesse F.	Qualine S.* (Jodi A mom)
Bruce L.*(Arnold L son)	Karen & David H.*	Pat D.
Chastity G. & Joan S.	Liam A.	Paul W.
Corinne C.	Lynn K.*	Sally S.

Judy M. and family in the death of her sister, Sue C.

The names in bold are new to the prayer list. The names with an asterisk (*) are not church members. However, a church member has received permission to ask that they be lifted in prayer.

If you or someone you know would like to be added to our prayer list, please contact a Deacon or the church staff. Prayer request cards are available in the Prayer Box located in the Narthex, in the church pews, or online ([click here](#)). You can place your prayer request in the offering plate or the lock box at the church office door. For electronic prayer requests, please complete the form and click submit.

If you have a pastoral concern, that happens before or after office hours, please call the office (920.922.0425), press #2 for Pastoral Care.

GETTING CONNECTED:

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YouTube
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August

Deacon of the Month: Gail Kamphuis

Elder of the Month: Dave Erickson

STAFF:

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Kris Bartelt
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Mary Robotka
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WEEKLY STATISTICS FOR AUGUST 18,2024

Individuals in Person: 92

Zoom Households: 4

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
08/18/2024	\$2289.55	Tithes/Offerings
	\$ 500.00	"Pave the Way"
8/12--16/24	\$2631.00	Vanco Online "Tithes/Offerings"
	\$ 10.00	Vanco Online "Pave the Way"
	<u>\$5430.55</u>	TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK

Financial Giving and Gratitude

You can give online at www.fdlpresbyterian.org Giving page. (Click on ' Online Giving'.) You can also give by cash or check on Sunday morning, or by mail. We are so very thankful for your contributions that help us do God's work in our church and in our community.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday

9:00-10:00am

10:15-11:00am

10:15-10:45am

11:00-12:00am

6:30-7:45pm

August 25

Outdoor Worship

Fellowship Time/Games

Parent Sunday School Meeting

Lunch-Chicken provided, bring a Dish to Share

The Chosen Season 4 Ep 8

Monday

10:00-11:30am

August 26

Staff Meeting

Tuesday

10:30-12:00pm

5:30-6:30pm

August 27

The Chosen Season 4 Ep 8

AA Open Meeting

Wednesday

8:00-9:00am

7:00-8:30pm

August 28

Men's Breakfast

Worship Team