

The Well

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

WE GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Words

Jesus said the kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed:

God's reign begins in the small and insignificant.

Jesus said the kingdom of heaven is like yeast mixed into flour:

God's reign slowly leavens our lives.

Jesus said the kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field:

God's reign is right beneath our feet, and we rejoice when discover it!

Opening Celebration

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King,

Lift up your voice and with us sing,

Oh praise Him!

Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,

Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

Oh praise Him! Oh praise Him!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,

And worship Him in humbleness,

Oh praise Him!

Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,

And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One!

Oh praise Him! Oh praise Him!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All the redeemed washed by His blood,

Come and rejoice in His great love,

Oh praise Him!

Alleluia!

Christ has defeated every sin.

Cast all your burdens now on Him.

Oh praise Him! Oh praise Him!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

He shall return in pow'r to reign.

Heaven and earth will join to say,

Oh praise Him!

Alleluia!

Then who shall fall on bended knee?

All creatures of our God and King!
Oh praise Him! Oh praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Oh praise Him! Oh praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Welcoming One Another

Song

Graves into Gardens

I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me.
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade
Are never enough.
Then You came along and put me back together,
And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love.

Oh, there's nothing better than You.
There's nothing better than You.
Lord, there's nothing,
Nothing is better than You.

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness.
My failures and flaws,
Lord, You've seen them all,
And You still call me friend.
'Cause the God of the mountain
Is the God of the valley,
And there's not a place
Your mercy and grace won't find me again.

Oh, there's nothing better than You.
There's nothing better than You.
Lord, there's nothing,
Nothing is better than You.

Oh, there's nothing better than You.
There's nothing better than You.
Lord, there's nothing,
Nothing is better than You.

You turn mourning to dancing.
You give beauty for ashes.
You turn shame into glory.
You're the only one who can.

You turn mourning to dancing.
You give beauty for ashes.
You turn shame into glory.
You're the only one who can.

You turn graves into gardens.
You turn bones into armies.

You turn seas into highways.
You're the only one who can.
You're the only one who can.

Oh, there's nothing better than You.
There's nothing better than You.
Lord, there's nothing,
Nothing is better than You.

Oh, there's nothing better than You.
There's nothing better than You.
Lord, there's nothing,
Nothing is better than You.

You turn graves into gardens.
You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways.
You're the only one who can.

You turn graves into gardens.
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WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Scripture Lesson

[Romans 8:26-39](#)

Reese Cummings

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. ²⁷ The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will. ²⁸ We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ We know this because God knew them in advance, and he decided in advance that they would be conformed to the image of his Son. That way his Son would be the first of many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ Those who God decided in advance would be conformed to his Son, he also called. Those whom he called, he also made righteous. Those whom he made righteous, he also glorified.

³¹ So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He didn't spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. Won't he also freely give us all things with him?

³³ Who will bring a charge against God's elect people? It is God who acquits them. ³⁴ Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us.

³⁵ Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

We are being put to death all day long for your sake.

We are treated like sheep for slaughter.

³⁷ But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. ³⁸ I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers ³⁹ or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

Sharing Faith with God's Children

Chris Fulkerson

Care for children up to age 5 is in Room 121. Worship Kits for children, containing crayons and puzzle sheets based on Scripture, may be found in the entrance area.

Song

Goodness of God

Verse 1

I love You, Lord.
Oh, Your mercy never fails me.
All my days
I've been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head,
I will sing of the goodness of God.

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful.
All my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God.

Verse 2

I love Your voice.
You have led me through the fire.
In darkest night,
You are close like no other.
I've known You as a father.
I've known You as a friend.
I have lived in the goodness of God.

Misc 1 (Bridge)

Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me.
Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me.
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now.
I give You everything.
Your goodness is running after,
It's running after me.

Gospel Lesson

[Matthew 13:31-32, 44-52](#)

³¹ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has

grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The Message

Pastor Duane

If you would like to discuss today's message after the service is over, join the Reflections group in Room 114.

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Offering Our Gifts

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.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass 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 ARE SENT TO SERVE

Closing Song

Your Love Never Fails

Nothing can separate,
Even if I ran away.
Your love never fails.
I know I still make mistakes,
But You have new mercies for me ev'ryday.
Your love never fails.

You stay the same through the ages.
Your love never changes.
There may be pain in the night,
But joy comes in the morning.
And when the oceans rage,
I don't have to be afraid
Because I know that You love me.
Your love never fails.

The wind is strong and the water's deep,
But I'm not alone here in these open seas
'Cause Your love never fails.
The chasm is far too wide.
I never thought I'd reach the other side.
Your love never fails.

You stay the same through the ages.
Your love never changes.
There may be pain in the night,
But joy comes in the morning.
And when the oceans rage,
I don't have to be afraid
Because I know that You love me.
Your love never fails.

You make all things
Work together for my good.
You make all things
Work together for my good.
You make all things
Work together for my good.
You make all things
Work together for my good.
You make all things
Work together for my good.
You make all things
Work together for my good.
You stay the same through the ages.
Your love never changes.
There may be pain in the night,
But joy comes in the morning.
And when the oceans rage,
I don't have to be afraid
Because I know that You love me.

The Blessing

