



St. Paul's
United Methodist Church
Journeying Together Since 1885

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

Thank you for worshiping with us today.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we welcome you to St. Paul's, a Reconciling congregation of the United Methodist Church. All are celebrated here and all are safe. This bulletin will guide our service today. More helpful information can be found following the order of worship.

(* - please stand in body or spirit)

Gathering for Worship

Announcements

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Prelude

Fanfare on MELITA (10:30 only)

Wayne Wold

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: Come, people of God, and worship the One who reigns above all rulers and powers.

All: We lift our eyes to the Lord, whose throne is steadfast and whose kingdom has no end.

Leader: Earthly authorities rise and fall, but God's justice endures forever.

All: We give thanks for order and peace, yet we place our hope only in Christ.

Leader: Let us worship the One who governs in righteousness.

All: With joy and reverence, we come to give God glory.

*Hymn #117

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

God of power and peace, You are the source of all true authority, and the judge of all nations. We confess that we are tempted to put our trust in rulers, wealth, or worldly strength. Yet only You are Lord; only Christ is King. Turn our hearts to Your kingdom, and let our worship honor You alone, in Spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

The Lord's Prayer (10:30 only)

UM Hymnal, #895

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.

Proclamation of the Word

Romans 13:1-7 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

Pew Bible – New Testament pages 162

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval, ⁴for it is God's agent for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the agent of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's agents, busy with this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is due them: taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #395

Take Time to Be Holy

Sermon

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Invitation to Discipleship and Giving

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Offerings by check may be made out to St. Paul's UMC. Scan the QR code to see one-time and recurring online giving options at stpaulsk.org. Thank you for supporting St. Paul's efforts to engage in meaningful worship and vibrant ministry in our community.



Offertory (10:30 only)

Fairest Lord Jesus
Sanctuary Choir

arr. Mary McDonald

*Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
Than all the angels heaven can boast.*

*Beautiful Savior and Lord of the nations!
Son of God and son of man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forever more be thine. Amen.*

*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

The Great Thanksgiving and Communion – 9:00 AM only

The Invitation, Confession & Pardon (9:00 only)

UM Hymnal p. 12

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Passing the Peace (9:00 only)

The Great Thanksgiving (9:00 only)

UM Hymnal p. 13-14

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

People: *And also with you.*

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Leader: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

The pastor gives thanks, remembering God's acts of salvation and concludes:

L: *And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

P: ***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

The pastor continues the thanksgiving and concludes:

L: *And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.*

P: ***Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.***

The pastor continues and concludes:

L: *All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.*

P: ***Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer (9:00 only)

UM Hymnal, #895

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.

Breaking the Bread and Giving the Bread & Cup (9:00 only)

All communion bread is gluten-free.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (9:00 only)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending Forth

Welcoming New Members (10:30 only)

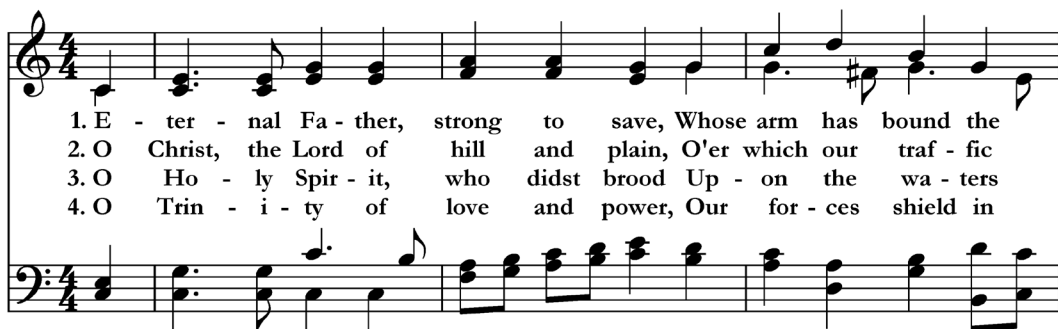
UM Hymnal, p. 38

Mathew Harrell & Kate Harrell

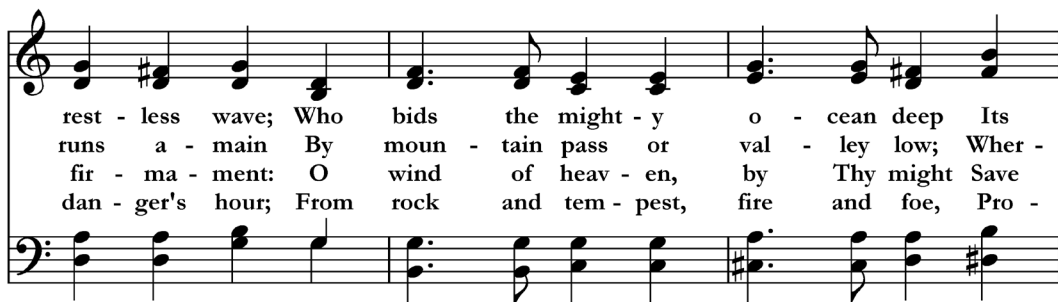
Congregational Response: We give thanks for all the God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Blessing before Deployment (10:30 only)

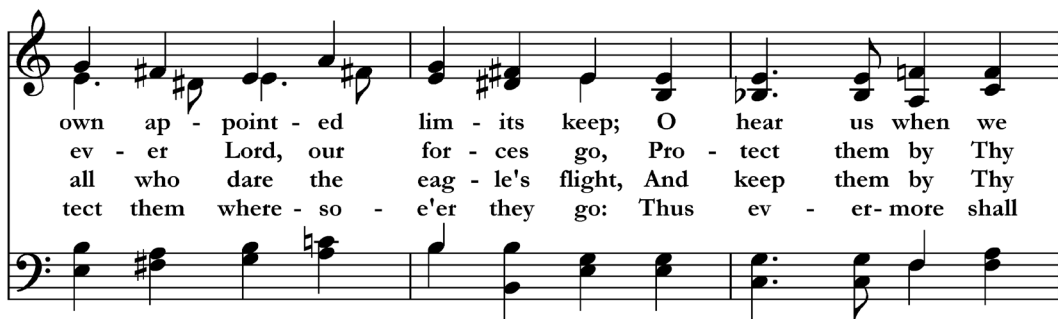
Travis Stalcup



1. E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose arm has bound the
 2. O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain, O'er which our traf - fic
 3. O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood Up - on the wa - ters
 4. O Trin - i - ty of love and power, Our for - ces shield in



rest - less wave; Who bids the might - y o - cean deep Its
 runs a - main By moun - tain pass or val - ley low; Wher -
 fir - ma - ment: O wind of heav - en, by Thy might Save
 dan - ger's hour; From rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, Pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep; O hear us when we
 ev - er Lord, our for - ces go, Pro - tect them by Thy
 all who dare the eag - le's flight, And keep them by Thy
 tect them where - so - e'er they go: Thus ev - er - more shall



cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
 guard - ing hand From ev - ery per - il on the land.
 watch - ful care From ev - ery per - il in the air.
 rise to thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Musical Blessing (10:30 only) *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*
Sanctuary Choir

Postlude (10:30 only) *Fugue in E-flat, BWV 552b* J. S. Bach



Please visit the Octagon following the 9:00 and 10:30 worship services for a Sipping Ministry time of coffee, sweets, and fellowship sponsored by Still Wednesday, and a final opportunity to view the original artwork on display.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers are given today by **Lorraine, Willa, and Rachel Stalcup**,
with love and in honor of **Travis Stalcup**
upon his military deployment to the Middle East.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, October 5, 2025

9:00 AM – Worship with Communion

10:30 AM – Worship with Communion and Sanctuary Choir



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly News – Visit stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news or scan the QR code to find all the announcements, links, and event details shared in our Weekly News. For questions about announcements, please contact Erin Steele in the church office (stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org).



Welcome! – Restrooms including a family restroom with changing table can be found past the church office, near the water fountain. **Large-print Bibles and Hymnals** are available from our ushers. **T-coil hearing aids** work in our Sanctuary. **Sign in!** Members, friends, and visitors alike are encouraged to use the attendance pads in the pews to share your name and note your attendance today. Please read more about worship at stpaulsk.org/worship.

Sunday School News – *Sunday, Sept. 28, 10:30 AM.* All children are invited to attend Sunday School this week! Children in Pre-K and younger will be in the Nursery. Grades K-2 meet in Room 200. Grades 3-5 meet in the Parlor. Parents and guardians should drop off and pick up at the classroom immediately after worship; please provide emergency contact info and registration using the button at stpaulsk.org/community/children or paper form at the classroom. Busy bags with quiet children's activities may be borrowed from the Welcome Desk. *Please note – Sunday School is still short a few teachers and classroom helpers - please contact Pastor Joey at joeyhm@stpaulsk.org if you can fill in and help keep Sunday School going strong!*

Worship Hours – The worship service on Sunday at 9:00 AM includes Communion each week. Worship at 10:30 AM offers Communion on the first Sunday of the month and music led by the Sanctuary Choir each week and livestreams at stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home.

Events and Information

- **Today: Children's Choir Begins!** – *Sunday, Sept. 28, 11:45 AM.* Perfect for kids in grades K-6 who are eager to learn and sing together. Rehearsals will be in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) with Ms. Christina Griffin, Children's Choir Director, following the 10:30 worship service.
- **Today: Sipping Ministry with Original Artwork** – *Sunday, Sept. 28.* Visit the Octagon after both the 9:00 and 10:30 worship services for coffee, sweets, and one last opportunity to view the art on exhibit from local artist and poet Joy-Jayne Bassey. Her work with paper, fabric, charcoal, acrylic, and words creates sculptural forms that demonstrate both the scars of experience and persistence of beauty.
- **Today: St. Paul's Youth** – *Sunday, Sept. 28, 7:00-8:30 PM.* All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join SPY for faith, friendship, and fun in the Multi-Purpose Room! Fill out the registration and permission form online at stpaulsk.org/community/youth and contact Pastor Sheridan (sallmond@stpaulsk.org) if you have questions.
- **This Week: Lydia Circle Sisters** – *Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2:30-4:00 PM.* All ladies are welcome at Lydia Circle gatherings on the first Wednesday of the month in the Octagon. For updates, contact Susan Schwarz at 301-339-8242 or susan10748@aol.com.
- **This Week: Still Wednesday** – *Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM.* Still Wednesday provides a weekly space for reflection and calm connection in a noisy world. Typically, Still Wednesday gathers in either the Sanctuary or the Octagon for a guided time of poetry, scripture, music, or art, with about 20 minutes of silent prayer.
- **This Week: Pancake Breakfast** – *Saturday, Oct. 4, 8:00-10:30 AM.* All members of the community are invited to the Fellowship Hall on the first Saturday of the month for pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, and other breakfast specialties, sponsored by The United Methodist Men and volunteers. Diners are encouraged to make a donation at

the door (suggested \$8 per adult, \$2 per child, or \$20 for a family of four). Proceeds benefit local charities and St. Paul's programs.

- **Next Week: Sermon Safari Returns!** – *Wednesday, Oct. 8, 4:00-5:00 PM*. In this come-when-you-can, drop-in Zoom-based study, participants watch a video of a sermon and then discuss it. Sessions have featured sermons from such notable speakers as Senator Rev. Raphael Warnock, and Mariann Budde, Bishop of the National Cathedral. For the Zoom link, contact Dr. Meg Baker at megbaker@verizon.net.
- **Next Month: October is Pastor Appreciation Month!** Celebrate Pastor Sheridan and Pastor Joey for their faithful leadership, care, and service to our church family with cards, prayers, food (treats or meals!), or even flowers. Join in the Prayer Marathon with morning, midday, and evening times available throughout the month; go to <https://tinyurl.com/2s3ajwtd> to sign up and join in prayer!
- **Next Month: Church Conference** – *Saturday, Oct. 18, 10:00 AM*. The UMC's Baltimore-Washington Conference requires reports each year on the church's ministry, mission, health, and future plans. Church Conference for St. Paul's and other congregations in the Montgomery County Southwest Hub will be hosted this year at North Bethesda UMC (10100 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda MD). All are welcome to attend.
- **Next Month: Bible & Brews** – *Saturday, Oct. 18, 5:00-6:00 PM*. All are welcome for this time of interfaith conversation with Pastor Joey, Rabbi Adam, and neighbors from Temple Emanuel, held at BabyCat Brewery (10241 Kensington Pkwy, Kensington MD). Meetings are family friendly and you can purchase food or beverages as you like. Contact Pastor Joey with questions (joeyhm@stpaulsk.org).
- **Next Month: Taste & Sing** – *Tuesday, Oct. 21, 12:00-1:30 PM*. All are invited for this casual afternoon of music, learning, food, and fellowship. We start with a short hymn-sing, with Music Director Tom Pedersen at the keyboard! Then Erin Steele will guide us through a short program about a composer, lyricist, or theme. We finish with a tasty lunch prepared by Ginny Hagberg (\$5 donation).
- **Next Month: RMN Anniversary** – *Sunday, Oct. 19*. Wear your brightest clothes and rainbow colors as we fill the sanctuary with joy, love, and bold witness! This year we celebrate 5 years as a Reconciling Congregation! In worship, we'll give thanks for our journey of inclusion and renew our commitment to justice, welcome, and love for all people. Music at 10:30 will include guest musicians including James Woods and a new contemporary gospel anthem by Mark Miller.
- **Next Month: Sunday Film Series** – *Sunday, Oct. 26, 12:00-2:00 PM*. Join us for a series where we watch powerful films exploring justice and resilience together. The October film is *Till*, about Mamie Till Mobley's brave quest for public accountability after her 14-year old son Emmett was brutally murdered. Free popcorn in the Octagon! Please bring your own lunch. Contact Pastor Joey (joeyhm@tpaulsk.org).

- **Meal Train for Grace Graham** – Grace Graham has broken her right wrist in multiple places and faces an extended recovery time. Grace lives outside our normal “drop off zone” for meals, but appreciates help through gift cards in any amount to bring in meals. Find all the info here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/gzw743>
- **St. Paul’s Music** – The Music Department has fantastic opportunities for all ages and skill levels this year! Contact Tom Pedersen, Director of Music: tpedersen@stpaulsk.org
 - **Children’s Choir:** *Beginning Sunday, Sept. 28.* Perfect for kids in grades K-6 who are eager to learn and sing together.
 - **Joyful Ringers:** *Wednesdays at 7:00 PM.* An exciting handbell choir for adults that promises fun and fellowship. We welcome new ringers!
 - **Sanctuary Choir:** *Sundays at 9:30 AM.* Open to grades 7 and up and adult singers. We meet each week at 9:30 AM on Sundays in room 211 and sing for the 10:30 AM worship service. Singers are welcome week-to-week or on a continuing basis!
- **Lay Readers Wanted** – We’re looking for lay readers! To serve at the 9:00 AM worship service, please sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/42v2k5em>. If you are interested in the 10:30 AM Lay Reader opportunities, or if you have questions, please contact Marge Higgins at higginsmarge@gmail.com.
- **Regular Activities** – Please contact group leaders for details!
 - **Prayerwaves** – *Wednesdays, 10:00-10:30 AM.* To pray together by phone, dial 425-436-6326 a few minutes before 10:00 AM, then enter access code 774042 followed by the # sign. To receive the prayer list by email, please contact Erin Steele in the church office at stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org.
 - **Yarn Ministry** – *Mondays twice a month, 7:00-8:30 PM.* Bring your knitting, crochet, or other craft project and craft alongside friends in the church library. We will also plan the fall Craft Fair. Contact Karen Codner for up-to-date info: KDC811@gmail.com. Find the full schedule for Fall 2025 at stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events
 - **Sipping Ministry** – This fellowship time with beverages and snacks is held after worship whenever a group, family, or individual wishes to host. Sign up on the office bulletin board and take a “how to” instruction sheet.
 - **Stephen Ministers** – Please contact Martha Lipscomb (301-518-1642) to be connected to a Stephen Minister for confidential care and a listening ear.
 - **Sanctuary Flower Sponsors** – To sponsor the flowers that grace the Sanctuary on Sunday morning, please add your name to the Flower Chart on the office bulletin board to reserve a date, then fill out a yellow form with the dedication information. The cost is \$45 and you may take your flowers after worship.

- **Hunger Ministry** – St. Paul’s year-round ministry provides grocery resources for about 150 households in our ZIP code. Learn more about this important way we serve the local community at stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry. Non-perishables pantry staples in good condition may be donated in the bins in the Narthex any time. Financial donations marked for “Hunger Ministry” help us place bulk orders and provide recipients with grocery store gift cards to enable them to buy fresh or frozen meat, dairy, produce, or hygiene products. Thank you for helping us serve beyond the walls of St. Paul’s!



SOURCES AND LICENSING

Livestreaming each week at 10:30 AM at stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home.

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** Prelude: *Fanfare on MELITA* by Wayne Wold, from *Augsburg Organ Library*, copyright 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer: Inspired by Romans 13:1-7, adapted by Ministry Assistant.

* Hymn: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*. Words: Isaac Watts (1719). Music: Attr. to William Croft (1708); harm. by W. H. Monk (1861). Public domain.

Bible Reading: *New Revised Standard Version Bible Updated Edition (NRSVUE)*, copyright 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

Hymn: *Take Time to be Holy*. Words: William D. Longstaff (1882). Music: George C. Stebbins (1890). Public domain.

** Anthem: *Fairest Lord Jesus*, by Mary McDonald with words from *Gesangbuch* (Munster) and Joseph August Seiss, and tune by H. A. Hoffman von Fallersleben’s *Schlesische Volkslieder*. Copyright 2010 by Lorenz Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

** Doxology: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (LASST UNS ERFREUEN)*. Words: Thomas Ken (1674), adapt. Gilbert H. Vieira (1978). Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesange* (1623), harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906). Adapt. copyright 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House.

Hymn: *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*. Words: William Whiting (v. 1 & 4); Robert N. Spencer (v. 2 & 3). Music: John B. Dykes. Public domain.

Postlude: *Fugue in E-flat, BWV 552b* by J. S. Bach, from *Clavierübung III (Keyboard Practice III)*. Public domain.



LEADING AND SERVING

Senior Pastor: Rev. Sheridan Allmond, sallmond@stpaulsk.org

Associate Pastor: Rev. Joey Heath-Mason, joeyhm@stpaulsk.org

Music Director: Mr. N. Thomas Pedersen, tpedersen@stpaulsk.org

Organist: Mr. Marvin Mills, mmills@stpaulsk.org

Bookkeeping & Facilities: Ms. Tracey Furman, tfurman@stpaulsk.org

Communications & Administration: Dr. Erin Bone Steele, stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org

A/V Team: John & Biljana Regan; John Stephens

Children's Choir Director: Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Anne Dean

Usher Team: Nathan Bazawada (coordinator), Aiden Bazawada, Ginny Hagberg,
Henry Montgomery, Vince Velasco, Jackson Weaver

Lay Readers: Deanna Hodgson (9:00 AM); Deb Harris (10:30 AM)



We, the community of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Kensington, welcome you in love. Jesus Christ accepts all, excluding none. So we welcome and affirm you who are gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer. We welcome you without regard to your sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, culture, race, ethnicity, ability, education, or age. We welcome you no matter your immigration, marital, or economic status. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we welcome and affirm you as one of God's children into our community of God's unbounded love. All are celebrated here and all are safe.

