



## ***The Worship of God***

September 13, 2020

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Eleven O'Clock

### **PREPARATION AND PRAISE**

PRELUDE: Panis Angelicus

Cesar Franck

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Wherever we are right now, we gather to worship God.

We gather from the north, the direction of great power and wind and surprises.

May God give us courage to face the wind and the surprises of living.

We gather from the west, the direction of the setting sun, of letting go, and of dying.

May God give us wisdom to honor the silence and darkness within us  
and the whole universe.

We gather from the south, the direction of our intuition and imagination.

May God give us wonder and awe, awareness and appreciation.

We gather from the east, the direction in which the sun rises, day begins, and hope emerges.

May God give us resurrection to a new way of life that includes all of God's people!

THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM: "The Glory of the Father"

Egil Hovland

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth. In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God. In Him was life; and the life was the light of all. He came to his own, and his own received him not.

### **CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, O God, for we have sinned. We often want answers that are easy, roads that are smooth, and results that are quick. We want one key that will unlock all doors, one remedy that will cure all ills, one solution that will solve all problems. And somewhere in all of our searchings and distractions, you are sometimes left behind. We confess that we have traded reality for illusion, vision for blindness, wisdom for foolishness. Forgive us and restore us, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*silence*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### **MEDITATION**

THE GOSPEL LESSON:

Matthew 16:13-20

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

ANTHEM: "I Thank My God"

J. Aaron McDermid

I thank my God when I remember you. In all my prayers I pray with joy for your partnership in sharing the Good News. For I am sure that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ. This is my prayer: that your love may overflow, that you will grow in knowledge and depth of understanding. This is my prayer. For I am sure that he who began a good work in you will carry it on, that you may see what is best and be pure and blameless for the day of Christ. Amen. *Philippians 1:3-6, 9-10*

### PROCLAMATION

THE EPISTLE LESSON:

I John 3:1-2

SERMON:

"Becoming Church"

Dr. Wright

### OFFERTORY OPPORTUNITY AND PRAYER

*This morning we give thanks for United Community Ministries which provides a "nurturing and supportive environment for homeless, and nearly homeless, families and individuals as they move toward wholeness." Paper goods collected for the shelter residents are on the altar.*

MEDITATION: "Christ Has No Body Now But Yours"

David Ogden/Owen Stroud

Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he sees. Yours are the feet with which he walks. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands.

### AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God who has created and is creating, who has come in the truly human and divine Jesus, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust God who calls us to be the Church, to celebrate life in its fullness, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Let us praise and honor him, and rejoice to be his people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

POSTLUDE: Allegro in G

Constantin Homilius

### THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Jody C. Wright  
*Senior Minister*

Elizabeth Edwards  
*Associate Minister*

Amy Shortt  
*Minister of Music*

Diana Kirkpatrick  
*Organist*

### WE WELCOME OUR CHORAL SCHOLARS

Sarah Summers (Soprano) is a second year graduate student studying Collaborative Piano at East Carolina University, with a degree in Piano Performance from Wingate University. Sarah has participated in choirs since third grade, and has traveled nationally and internationally with various acclaimed choirs. She also studies organ and harpsichord, and plans to use her God-given talents in church and at the collegiate level.

Erica Timmerman (Alto) is from Maquoketa, Iowa, a small town about 20 miles from the Mississippi River. She graduated last May with her Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. She is currently pursuing a Masters of Music at East Carolina University with concentrations in vocal performance and vocal pedagogy.

Jacob McCain (Tenor) is a senior voice performance major at East Carolina University. He has served as a choral scholar at St. James United Methodist Church and aspires to study early music in graduate school.

Jackson Baldwin (Baritone/Bass) is a senior vocal performance major at East Carolina University. Originally from the Raleigh area, he lives with his two cats, Dale and Despina. He has been singing in church since he was very young and loves everything involving animals, music, space, and hummus!