

**Knox & St. Mark's Presbyterian Church**  
**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost – July 16, 2023**

**Responsive Call to Worship**

God's Word is a lamp to our feet;  
**and a light to our path.**

God's Word is made visible in Christ;  
**in him we are rooted in truth.**

God's Word is revealed through the Holy Spirit;  
**and lived out in our faithful response.**

Come and listen for God's Word in this time of worship.  
**We wait in anticipation to receive the Word of Life.**

**Hymn 293 Come, Thou almighty King**

**1. Come, thou almighty King;  
help us thy name to sing;  
help us to praise.**

**Father, all glorious,  
o'er all victorious,  
come and reign over us,  
Ancient of Days.**

**2. Come, thou incarnate Word;  
gird on thy mighty sword;  
our prayer attend:  
come, and thy people bless,  
and give thy word success;  
Spirit of holiness,  
on us descend.**

**3. Come, holy Comforter;  
thy sacred witness bear  
in this glad hour!  
Thou who almighty art,  
now rule in every heart,  
and ne'er from us depart,  
Spirit of power.**

**4. To the great One in Three  
eternal praises be  
hence evermore!**

**His sovereign majesty  
may we in glory see,  
and to eternity  
love and adore.**

**Prayer of Praise**                      *(minister)*

**Hymn     807   We plough the fields and scatter**

**1. We plough the fields and scatter  
the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered  
by God's almighty hand:  
you send the snow in winter,  
the warmth to swell the grain,  
the breezes and the sunshine,  
and soft refreshing rain.**

**Refrain:**

**All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above;  
we thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord  
for all your love.**

**2. You only are the Maker  
of all things near and far;  
you paint the wayside flower,  
you light the evening star;  
the winds and waves obey you;  
by you the birds are fed;  
much more to us, your children,  
you give our daily bread.**

**Refrain:**

**All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above;  
we thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord  
for all your love.**

**3. We thank you, our provider,  
for all things bright and good,  
the seedtime and the harvest,  
our life, our health, our food.  
No gifts have we to offer**

**for all your love imparts,  
but that which you most welcome:  
our humble, thankful hearts.**

**Refrain:**

**All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above;  
we thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord  
for all your love.**

**Prayer of Confession (congregation)**

**You have planted the seeds of faith in us, faithful God, but we confess we have not tended those seeds well. We fail to keep studying your Word, satisfied instead with what we think it means. We consider that we already know enough, rather than pursue deeper encounters with you. Forgive us, God, when we think you have nothing more to offer us.**

**- silent confession -**

**The Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)**

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. For ever  
and ever. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon** *(minister)*

**Hymn 803 Come, ye thankful people, come**

**1. Come, ye thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest home;  
all is safely gathered in,  
ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our Maker, doth provide  
for our wants to be supplied.  
Come, to God's own temple, come:  
raise the song of harvest home.**

**2. All the world is God's own field,**

fruit unto God's praise to yield;  
wheat and weeds together sown,  
unto joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear.  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.

3. For the Lord our God shall come  
and shall take the harvest home;  
from the field shall in that day  
all offences purge away,  
give the angels charge at last  
in the fire the tares to cast,  
but the fruitful ears to store  
in God's storehouse evermore.

4. Even so, Lord, quickly come  
to thy final harvest home:  
gather thou thy people in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin;  
there, forever purified,  
in thy presence to abide.  
Come, with all thine angels, come:  
raise the glorious harvest home.

### Responsive Reading Psalm 119:105-112 p. 571 NT & Psalms

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp to guide my feet  
and a light for my path.

<sup>106</sup> **I've promised it once, and I'll promise it again:  
I will obey your righteous regulations.**

<sup>107</sup> I have suffered much, O Lord;  
restore my life again as you promised.

<sup>108</sup> **Lord, accept my offering of praise,  
and teach me your regulations.**

<sup>109</sup> My life constantly hangs in the balance,  
but I will not stop obeying your instructions.

<sup>110</sup> **The wicked have set their traps for me,  
but I will not turn from your commandments.**

<sup>111</sup> Your laws are my treasure;  
they are my heart's delight.

<sup>112</sup> **I am determined to keep your decrees  
to the very end.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

*Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation*

## **Scripture Lessons**

Genesis 25:19-34                      p. 19 pew Bible  
Romans 8:1-11                         p. 267 NT & Psalms  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23                p. 25 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God!***

**Sermon    So? Sow!**

**Prayers of the People**                      (*minister*)

**Hymn      801    From ocean unto ocean**

**1. From ocean unto ocean  
our land shall name you Lord,  
and, filled with true devotion,  
obey your sovereign word;  
our prairies and our mountains,  
forest and fertile field,  
our rivers, lakes and fountains  
to you shall tribute yield.**

**2. O Christ, we pray before you:  
come in your power to dwell.  
Now humbly we implore you:  
make this land whole and well,  
and may we know, Lord Jesus,  
the touch of your dear hand,  
and, healed of our diseases,  
the tempter's power withstand.**

**3. Our Saviour King, defend us,  
and guide where we should go;  
forth with your message send us,  
your love and light to show;  
till, fired with true devotion  
and kindled by your word,  
from ocean unto ocean  
our land shall name you Lord.**

## Offering & Offertory

### \*Doxology 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

### Prayer of Dedication (congregation)

**God of growing seeds and souls, we offer our gifts in thanksgiving for your kindness to us. Bless and multiply them to add to the abundance of your love at work in the world. Make them seeds of new life to inspire faith in souls they touch in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### Hymn 685 How firm a foundation

- 1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!  
What more can God say than to you hath been said,  
to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?**
- 2. 'Fear not, I am with thee; oh be not dismayed!  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to stand  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**
- 3. 'When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of woe shall not thee over flow,  
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**
- 4. 'When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply:  
the flames shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.**
- 5. 'The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!'**

### Choral Blessing

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will be with you each hour of every day.**

**God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

**Benediction**

**Three-fold Amen**

**Piano Postlude**