

**Knox & St. Mark's Presbyterian Church**  
**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost – July 23, 2023**

**Responsive Call to Worship**

We gather in the presence of God;

**We have come to worship and praise God's name.**

We gather in joy and expectancy;

**We have come to encounter God in beauty and wonder.**

Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening;

**Speak your Word of life to us, O God.**

**Hymn 321 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

**1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation:  
my soul, praise God who alone is your health and salvation.  
Come, all who hear, sisters and brothers draw near,  
joining in glad adoration.**

**2. Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously  
reigning;  
hides you with sheltering wings, ever gently sustaining!  
Have you not seen how your heart's wishes have been  
granted through God's kind ordaining?**

**3. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work, who  
defends you;  
surely God's merciful goodness here daily attends you;  
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
when in great love God befriends you.**

**4. Praise to the Lord, and with all that is in me adoring,  
all who has life and breath, come with glad praises  
outpouring!  
Let the amen sound from God's people again;  
now and forever adoring!**

**Prayer of Praise**     *(minister)*

**Hymn 821 Sun of my soul, my Saviour dear**

**1. Sun of my soul, my Saviour dear,  
it is not night if you are near;  
oh may no earthborn cloud arise  
to hide you from your servant's eyes.**

**2. When the soft dews of kindly sleep  
my wearied eyelids gently steep,  
be my last thought: How sweet to rest  
forever on my Saviour's breast.**

**3. Watch by the sick; enrich the poor  
with blessings from your boundless store;  
be every mourner's sleep tonight,  
like infants' slumbers, pure and light.**

**4. Come near and bless us when we wake,  
as through the world our way we take,  
till in the ocean of your love  
we lose ourselves in heaven above.**

### **Prayer of Confession (congregation)**

**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 whatever 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.**

**- 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 687 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine**

**1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!**

**Oh what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

**Refrain:**

**This is my story; this is my song:  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story; this is my song:  
praising my Saviour all the day long.**

**2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

**Refrain:**

**This is my story; this is my song:  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story; this is my song:  
praising my Saviour all the day long.**

**3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Saviour am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.**

**Refrain:**

**This is my story; this is my song:  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story; this is my song:  
praising my Saviour all the day long.**

**Responsive Reading Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 p. 583 NT & Psalms**

<sup>1</sup> O Lord, you have examined my heart  
and know everything about me.

<sup>2</sup> **You know when I sit down or stand up.**

**You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.**

<sup>3</sup> You see me when I travel  
and when I rest at home.  
You know everything I do.

<sup>4</sup> **You know what I am going to say  
even before I say it, Lord.**

<sup>5</sup> You go before me and follow me.

You place your hand of blessing on my head.

<sup>6</sup> **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too great for me to understand!**

<sup>7</sup> I can never escape from your Spirit!

I can never get away from your presence!

<sup>8</sup> **If I go up to heaven, you are there;  
if I go down to the grave,[a] you are there.**

<sup>9</sup> If I ride the wings of the morning,  
if I dwell by the farthest oceans,

<sup>10</sup> **even there your hand will guide me,  
and your strength will support me.**

<sup>11</sup> I could ask the darkness to hide me  
and the light around me to become night—

<sup>12</sup> **but even in darkness I cannot hide from you.  
To you the night shines as bright as day.  
Darkness and light are the same to you.**

<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

<sup>24</sup> **Point out anything in me that offends you,  
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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

## Scripture Lessons

Genesis 28:10-19a p. 22 pew Bible

Romans 8:12-25 p. 268 NT & Psalms

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 p. 26 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

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

**Sermon Of course we're children! But whose?**

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

**Hymn 650 He leadeth me**

**1. He leadeth me: oh blessed thought!  
oh words with heavenly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be  
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

**Refrain:**

**He leadeth me! He leadeth me!**

**By his own hand he leadeth me!  
A faithful follower I would be,  
for 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

**2. Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,  
Sometimes where Eden's flowers bloom,  
by waters still, o'er troubled sea,  
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me!**

**Refrain:**

**He leadeth me! He leadeth me!  
By his own hand he leadeth me!  
A faithful follower I would be,  
for 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

**3. Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,  
nor ever murmur nor repine,  
content, what ever lot I see,  
since 'tis my God that leadeth me!**

**Refrain:**

**He leadeth me! He leadeth me!  
By his own hand he leadeth me!  
A faithful follower I would be,  
for 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

**4. And when my task on earth is done,  
when by thy grace the victory's won,  
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,  
since God through Jordan leadeth me.**

**Refrain:**

**He leadeth me! He leadeth me!  
By his own hand he leadeth me!  
A faithful follower I would be,  
for 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

## **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)**

**Gift-giving God, we are so grateful for all that we enjoy in the world around us, and in the assurance you love us all. Bless the gifts we offer today, that they may express your love for the world itself and to all who need to know you care, through Christ Jesus, your greatest gift. Amen.**

## **Hymn 794 Abide with me**

**1. Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;  
when other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, oh abide with me.**

**2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.  
Change and decay in all around I see.  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.**

**3. I need thy presence every passing hour.  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like thyself my guide and strength can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.**

**4. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.**

**5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

## **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**