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CHURCH ON THE AVENUE

St. Luke's, Hampden

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 3, 2023

WELCOME & INSTRUCTION

Participants are invited to respond with the text in bold type.

In the name of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

ORDER OF CONFESSION

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving God, we have turned against you.

By our thoughts, words, and deeds, we have broken our relationship with you and with each other. *Breathe*

Gracious God, when you showed us love, we have thought and spoken poorly of our **neighbors.** *Breathe*

God of Abundance, when you provided for our needs, we ignored the needs of others and **often justified our wants.** *Breathe*

Consoling God, when you said “do not be afraid,” we allowed fear to fester, giving birth to **anger and hatred of the other.** *Breathe*

Empowering God, when you made us caretakers of the earth, we hurt your creation with our **greed and selfishness.** *Breathe*

Merciful God, **often we do not recognize our own sinfulness though we are quick to point out the sinfulness of others;** *Breathe*

God of Compassion, **at times, we believe we are unforgiveable and we do not trust in the capacity of your Spirit.** *Breathe*

Redeeming God, **Forgive us, transform us, empower us by your grace.** **Amen.**

The death Jesus died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus for you are forgiven in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN | Son of God, Eternal Savior

ELW 655



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING | Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflinching standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION |

ELW 174

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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GOSPEL READING | Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

God is with you. **And also with you.**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE |

Rev. Jim Muratore, Pastor

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

- Consider a time when on human things over divine things. Consider the opposite.
- How do you regard Paul’s instruction in the first reading? Where do you struggle, and where do you find encouragement?

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on

this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. . We pray for Bob and Jeanette, Rob and Scott, Ron and Beryl, Amanda, Buddy, Noah, Landis, Trish, Roman, Kristen, Pam, Jim, Quinn, Charles, Joe, Htet (Tet), Marie, Katie, Doug, Hannah, the people of Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, and for all whom we name now.... Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor. Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Offering may be made electronically on the church's website at www.churchontheavenuehampden.org. You can also sign up for automated giving. See announcements at the end of the bulletin.

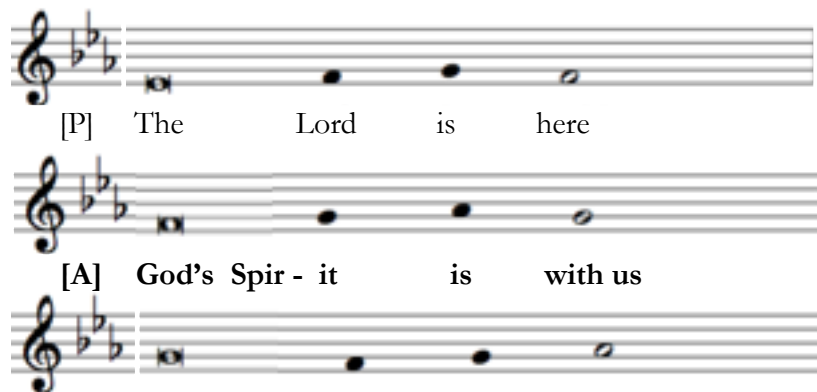
OFFERING PRAYER

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. **Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

COMMUNION

The assembly is invited to stand in body or spirit.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the voice part [P] and contains the lyrics "The Lord is here". The second staff is for the voice part [A] and contains the lyrics "God's Spir - it is with us". The third staff is a piano accompaniment consisting of a single bass note (G) on the first staff and a single bass note (D) on the second staff, both held for the duration of the piece.

[P] Let us lift up our hearts

[A] We lift them to our God

[P] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

[A] It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
 that we should at all times and in all places
 give thanks and praise to you, O God, our Father and Mother,
 through our Savior Jesus Christ;
 who on this day overcame death and the grave,
 and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
 And so, with all the choirs of angels,
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
 you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos;
 you encircled the globe with air;
 you created fire for warmth and light;
 you nourish the lands with water.
 You molded us in your image,
 and with mercy higher than the mountains,
 with grace deeper than the seas,
 you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,
 might be adopted to live in your Spirit,
 you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours Almighty God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion is served by way of intinction. Come forward in a counter clockwise circle. Hand sanitizer is available at the altar for your use. A dab'll do! Receive the bread in your hand and dip into the cup. The clay chalice is reserved for gluten free recipients. If you wish not to receive you are welcome to remain seated or come forward with crossed arms to receive a blessing. ALL are welcome to come and receive without exception.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Contact Cheryl Conrad to sign up!

BALTIMORE FOLK CLUB PRESENTS: Jocelyn Petit and Ellen Gira, September 8th doors at 7 pm, concert 7:30pm. Tickets \$20 via venmo @raosban, paypal to virgil.osban@gmail.com, or pay at the door. Contact Richard Osban at raosban@gmail.com to register or for more info .

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet this Tuesday evening at 7pm.

THE LITTLE MARKET | Friday, September 1st in the Courtyard 5-9pm

ST. LUKE'S 140th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION | September 16th AND 17th
SPAGHETTI DISCO Saturday, Sept. 16th 6-9pm
\$15 General Ticket, \$10 Children u& Seniors, Children 2 and under are free.

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING & RECEPTION, Sunday, Sept. 17th 3-6pm

COME AND SEE!!! So much is going on here at St. Luke's Church on the Avenue, please visit our website to view the calendar and explore links to activities happening every day! Visit us at www.churchontheavenuehampden.org or by scanning the QR Code below.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for sustaining our ministry during this strange and difficult time! You can provide offering or make a special gift at anytime through the church's giving portal. Links can be found in the e-newsletter and on the church website at <http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org>. or by scanning the QR Code below.



BENEDICTION

God is with you! **And also with you!**

The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed:

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, keep, and sustain you
now and to the end of the age.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN | Let Streams of Living Justice Flow

ELW 710



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**