



CHURCH ON THE AVENUE

St. Luke's, Hampden

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

July 31, 2022

WELCOME & INSTRUCTION

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

In the Name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

ORDER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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.**

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN | All Depends On Our Possessing

No. 589



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's free grace and
2 God, who hith - er - to has fed me and to man - y
3 When with sor - row I am strick - en, hope my heart a -
4 Well you know what best to grant me; all the long - ing
5 If on earth my days should length - en, God, my wea - ry



con - stant bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
joys has led me, is and ev - er shall be mine.
new will quick - en, all my long - ing shall be stilled.
hopes that haunt me, joy and sor - row, have their day.
soul still strength - en; all my trust in you I place.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en by their God are
God, who did so gent - ly school me and who dai - ly
To your lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der all my be - ing
I shall doubt your wis - dom nev - er; as you will, so
Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing; like a stream a -



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.
guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.
I sur - ren - der; Lord, on you a - lone I build.
be it ev - er; I com - mit to you my way.
way it's glid - ing; safe I an - chor in your grace.

Text: Gesangbuch, Nürnberg, 1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.

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

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING | Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a “vanity of vanities.” Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one’s work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

²Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹²I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, ¹³applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. ¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18}I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me ¹⁹—and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

PSALM 49:1-12

¹Hear this, ¹ all you peoples;
give ear, all you who dwell ¹ in the world,
²**you of high de- ¹ gree and low,
rich and ¹ poor together.**
³My mouth shall ¹ speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on ¹ understanding.
⁴**I will incline my ear ¹ to a proverb
and set forth my riddle up- ¹ on the harp. R**
⁵Why should I be afraid in ¹ evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my ¹ heels surrounds me,
⁶**the wickedness of those who put their trust in ¹ their own prowess,
and boast of ¹ their great riches?**
⁷One can never re- ¹ deem another,
or give to God the ransom for an- ¹ other’s life;
⁸**for the ransom of a life ¹ is so great
that there would never be e- ¹ nough to pay it,**
⁹in order to live forev- ¹ er and ever
and never ¹ see the grave.

¹⁰For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them.

¹¹Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, though they had named lands after themselves.

¹²Even though honored, they cannot live forever; they are like the beasts that perish. R

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

No. 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL READING | Luke 12:13-21

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.

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

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

¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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

MESSAGE |

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

HYMN | Be Thou My Vision

No. 793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

O God, you are wholeness. Where there is division in your church, bring reconciliation and healing. Guide the work of theologians, Sunday school teachers, seminary professors, and all who provide instruction for the building up of your church. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you are the source of all life. Where creation cries out in distress, bring relief and renewal. Bless farmers, ranchers, distributors, and all who provide our food. Nourish the land and all its habitants. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you are wisdom. Where nations and communities yearn for peace, bring justice. Strengthen those who toil for the welfare of others, especially military personnel, police, first responders, and activists, and for the healing of the nations. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you are life. Where your people are overwhelmed with the busy-ness of life, bring encouragement. Accompany all who experience emotional, mental, or physical distress. We raise up to you, Bob and Jeanette, Rob and Scott, Ron and Beryl, Justin, Zach and Rae, Buddy, Steve, Katie, Roman, Terrance, Angel, Jon, Pam, Jim, Quinn, Charles, Joe, Htet (Tet), and all else whom we name now.... Renew us at your table of mercy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you are our treasure. Where scarcity and anxiety pervade your church, bring abundance and vitality. Guide the work of church councils and committees and give them clarity for the work of ministry in this place. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you are resurrection. We give you thanks for all your saints especially William Powell. Inspire us by their example of faithful living to set our minds on things above and to be rich in love toward you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THRIFT SHOP SUMMER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED | Saturdays 11am-4pm

WE'RE CHANGING OUR ONLINE GIVING PLATFORM

We are currently transitioning online giving to "Tithe.ly" and need members to register on the new site to complete this task. You can do so by clicking the updated GIVE link on the church website. Donors will be able to set up recurring/automated giving. If you have questions or challenges, please check in with Pastor Jim.

HARMONY WORKS ACU-SOUND BATH | NEW TIMES

Tuesdays, 5-6pm, 6:30-8:00pm and Wednesdays 5:30-7:00pm

MOTION COLLECTIVE ON THE AVENUE

View class offerings at www.motioncollectiveontheavenue.com

THANK YOU for your continued generosity and for sustaining our ministry together. 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>.

BENEDICTION

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

The God of peace,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN | God of Grace and God of Glory

No. 705



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

DISMISSAL

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