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August 27, 2023

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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**GATHERING IN THE LORD'S PRESENCE**

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**Boldface = All speak**

❖ = All who are able, please stand.

**PRELUDE**..... "Sarabande in G Minor" *Handel*  
"Prelude in E Minor" *J.S. Bach*

**WELCOME**

**PIANO INTROIT** ..... "Berceuse" *Aleksandr Ilyinsky*

❖ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Our help is in the name of the Lord,*

**who made the heavens and the earth.**

*The God who saved Israel is still at work in the world,*

**hearing the cries of the afflicting and setting God's people free.**

*Come, let us worship God!*

❖ **HYMN** ..... "God the Sculptor of the Mountains" ..... **#5**  
*(Words: © 1993 John Thornburg. Music: Amanda Husberg © 1996 Abingdon Press)*

❖ **CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER**

**Gracious God, you are always present and active amid your people. We confess that sometimes we fail to recognize and respond to your saving work in the world. We defer to power and privilege, expect the tried and true, and succumb to doubt and despair when your ways are not clear. Behold, you are doing a new thing; help us to perceive it.** (a time for silent confession) **Forgive us when we do not respond to your call. Liberate us from our fears and self-imposed limitations. Guide us into the fullness of life and love that you are at work preparing. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

❖ **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

❖ **AFFIRMING THE PEACE AMONG US**

*The peace of Christ be with you!*

**And also with you!**

*The children may go back to Sunday School at this time.*

❖ **GLORIA PATRI** ..... Henry W. Greatorex (Public Domain) ..... **#581**

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## HEARING THE WORD

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### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Mysterious God, we trust that you are at work among us, even when you are hidden from our sight. By the power of your Spirit, open our eyes to see you, our ears to hear you, and our arms to embrace your truth, as it comes to us in your Word. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE** ..... Matthew 16:13-20, pg. 1398  
*Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Thanks be to God.*

**MESSAGE** ..... The Rev. Sara K. Snowden

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## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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❖ **HYMN** ..... "In Christ There is No East or West" ..... **#317**  
*(CCLI Song #2927293. John Oxenham | Harry Thacker Burleigh. Words and Music: Public Domain)*

❖ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from A Brief Statement of Faith*)

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*p. 35 in the hymnal*)

## OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**DOXOLOGY** ..... Genevan Psalter (Public Domain) ..... **#606**

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### GOING FORTH TO SERVE

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## OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT & SERVE

❖ **HYMN** ..... "Will You Come and Follow Me" ..... **#726**

*(CCLI Song #4668756. Graham Maule | John L. Bell © Words & Music: 1987 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland (Admin. by Wild Goose Resource Group)*

## ❖SENDING FORTH

**POSTLUDE**..... "Berceuse" *Armas Järnefelt*

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**Pastor:** The Rev. Sara K. Snowden

**Lector:** Larry Evans

**Greeter/Usher:** Bev Mason

**Worship Pianist:** Amy Dickman

**Offering Counters:** Darly Doyle & Karen Maurer

*In gratitude for Ginna Bairby and the Presbyterian Outlook for inspiring portions of today's worship service.*

