**September 17th, 2023 The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Email/At Home Missal**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 9.30 am on September 17th, 2023, can be found here:**

**Sunday Worship September 17th, 2023 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.**

**Join Zoom Meeting click here:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83858523329?pwd=UUpVdCtkTDB0MWhTVkhjSmxvWjFnUT09>**

Meeting ID: 838 5852 3329 Passcode: 629887

**You don’t have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply): (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the “One tap mobile” option:**

**+12042727920,,83858523329#,,,,\*629887# Canada**

**+14388097799,,83858523329#,,,,\*629887# Canada**

**Dial by your location:**

**+1 778 907 2071 Canada**

**+1 780 666 0144 Canada**

**+1 204 272 7920 Canada  
+1 438 809 7799 Canada**

**+1 587 328 1099 Canada**

**+1 647 374 4685 Canada  
+1 647 558 0588 Canada**

**Meeting ID: 838 5852 3329 Passcode: 629887**

**Find your local number:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kz0pHIt5i**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kz0pHIt5i)

**Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system. (until Sep Jan. 28, 2024 inclusive) Weekly:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZclcuGtrDgpGN0DFTdLpHe3HQR11iTyKVW8/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrpj4iH9aWsxuORpwqGo\_4We\_zpnZejY0NuDnRBwxDSgalHtNwY-N2JMH7**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZclcuGtrDgpGN0DFTdLpHe3HQR11iTyKVW8/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrpj4iH9aWsxuORpwqGo_4We_zpnZejY0NuDnRBwxDSgalHtNwY-N2JMH7)

……………………………………….

**Coming Events** *(save these dates)*

Sept. 19 Self-Care for Mental Health *(pre-register)* – Trillium United Church

Sept. 22 Climate Emergency Vigil – Waterloo Square at 8 pm

**Sept. 23 Choir Practice Begins again in the sanctuary at 1:30 pm**

**50th Anniversary Celebration Organ Series Recital 7 pm**

**Sept. 24 Town Hall Meeting following the worship service**

Sept. 24 Summer Services – Historic Ellis Pioneer Chapel 2:30 pm

Sept. 29 Climate Emergency Vigil – Waterloo Square at 8 pm

**Oct. 1 You are invited to wear an Orange Shirt to worship**

**Oct. 4 Book Study: Our Home and Treaty Land**

Personal Care Clinic *(9 – Noon appointment only)* – Trillium United Church

Oct. 6 Climate Emergency Vigil – Waterloo Square at 8 pm

Oct. 8 Thanksgiving Worship & Food Drive *(You are invited bring an item which is or represents something for which you are*

*thankful for. It could be a photo of a family or a favourite place, a treasured item*

*of clothing, a trinket or knick-knack, a book or gift you received)*

**Oct. 21 St. Peter’s and the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra 7 pm**

Nov. 5 All Saints Sunday followed by fellowship time

**Nov. 18 Christmas Bazaar**

**Dec. 4 Worship followed by fellowship time** *(remember a loved one who has passed away since Nov. 5, 2022, please sign*

*their name on the list on the table in the narthex. You are also invited to bring*

*a photo of them to be placed in a special display.)*

**Dec. 8 Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol**

**Dec. 17 Pulled Pork Lunch & Silent Auction following Worship**

**bold print indicates that the events are being held here at St. Peter’s**

**The Life of St. Peter’s for the week of Sept.17th to Sept.23rd, 2023**

Monday **10:00 am VIM Meeting *(Parlour)***

6:00 pm TOPS - R.F.F. *(Art Room)*

Tuesday 7:00 pm Scouts - R.F.F. *(Scout Room, Art Room, Fellowship Hall)*

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday 8:30 am Windjammers Practice *(Sanctuary)*

**7:00 pm** **50th Anniversary Celebration Organ Series Recital**

Sunday **10:00 am Worship Service**

(R.F.F. – Request for Facilities)

**………………………………**

**PASTORAL VISITS:** Pastor Laura is available for visits by appointment by calling the church office, 519-653

4721. Whether you have a particular pastoral concern or would just like some one-to-one time to get know

Pastor Laura, she would love to meet with you.

………………………………….

Help us support the **Cambridge Food Bank** by bringing a canned good or non-perishable item to church with you. We have a collection basket in the narthex, and every donation helps enable the food bank to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry. We appreciate and thank you for your help in filling the basket as there is a very real and urgent need.

…………………………..

**Book Study**: **Our Home and Treaty Land** **During the month of October** - “Tuesday October 3, 10 & 17 at 7:15, and Wednesday October 25 at 7:00” the church. Pastor Laura will be leading a group study for the book “Our Home and Treaty Land: Walking Our Creation Story” by Ray Aldred and Matthew Anderson. A limited number of copies are available for purchase from the church office ($10/each). To express your interest, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. To purchase a copy of the book please contact the church office at 519-653-4721.

**…………………………**

**St. Peter’s and the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra:** St. Peter’s, is pleased to host two concerts by the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra during their 2023/2024 season! The first concert will be held: **Saturday October 21, 2023 7:00 PM Cambridge.** Symphony Orchestra Masterworks I with Ken Gee, Piano

**……………………………**

**Start your Thanksgiving Shopping at St. Peter's:**

**ESTA Premium Truffles** $9.00 / Fifteen (15) assorted Truffles

**Pine Hill Wildflower Honey** $9.00 / 500 gram or $17.00 / 1000 gram;

**Snyder Heritage Farms** Organic Maple Syrup $23.00 / 1 Litre Mason Jar

Please contact Alex Black or St. Peter's office 519-653-4721 to place an order.

**…………………………….**

**Weekly Bible Study**: Pastor Laura is hoping to start up the third week of September on a new day and time. To that end, please see, and complete the sign-up sheet in the narthex, including the times that works for you. Pastor Laura will go with the time that works for the majority.

**……………………………**

**Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**

**Organist & Director of Music: Bradley Moggach**

**Assisting Minister: Kim Strassburger**

**Reader: Austin Dykstra**

**Welcome remarks & Land Acknowledgement**

**Call to Worship**:

***Congregational Response****:* ***We praise you for your glory***

P: Let us awaken our hearts to the presence of God, saying,

P: God before us, behind us, above us, upholding us…

P: God with us, among us, beside us, befriending us…

P: God within us, flowing through us, animating, harmonizing…

*Source: Brian D. McLaren, We Make the Road by Walking. Jericho Books: NY, 2014. Appendix I.*

**Gathering Hymn: ELW Setting 8 - Kyrie *(page 184)***

***Refrain***

***Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,***

***Kyrie eleison, ev’ry day.***

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;

for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

***Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,***

***Kyrie eleison, ev’ry day.***

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;

that we may live out truth and justice and grace,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

***Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,***

***Kyrie eleison, ev’ry day.***

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;

for life and for love, for our work and our play,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

***Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,***

***Kyrie eleison, ev’ry day.***

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;

that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

***Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,***

***Kyrie eleison, ev’ry day.\****

*(From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.)*

**Greeting**:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

***C: And also with you.***

**Prayer of Gratitude:**

P: Let us give thanks to the living God for all the gifts that we enjoy, saying

***C: We thank you, Living God.***

P: For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea…

For all that is gracious in our lives, revealing the image of Christ…

For your gifts of healing and wholeness…

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends…

For minds to think, hearts to love, hands to serve…

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play…

For challenges that call forth new strength, for failures that teach greater humility, and for encouragement to persevere when life is hard…

For all who have gone before us, for all who walk beside us, and for all children, who are precious to us and to you…

And for the great wisdom and hope that you reveal to us through Jesus, our leader, example, teacher, liberator, and friend…

**Amen**

*Adapted from: Brian D. McLaren, We Make the Road by Walking. Jericho Books: NY, 2014. Appendix I.*

**Theme Time**

**Prayer of the Day:**

God of promise, Abraham scoffed and Sarah laughed when they were told of your plans for them and their family. Yet you remained faithful to your promise, and gave them a son, Isaac. Help us to trust in your promises for our lives, and to live according to your will. Amen.

*(by Kimberly Leetch - source: http://www. narrativelectionary.org)*

**Scripture Song: ELW #519 ‘Open Your Ears, O Faithful People’**

1 Open your ears, O faithful people,

open your ears and hear God's word.

Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,

God has come to you.

***Refrain***

***Torah ora, Torah ora, hallelujah!***

***Torah ora, Torah ora, hallelujah!***

***Torah ora, Torah ora, hallelujah!***

***Torah ora, Torah ora, hallelujah!***

**God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!**

**God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!**

**God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!**

**God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!**

2 They who have ears to hear the message,

they who have ears, now let them hear;

they who would learn the way of wisdom,

let them hear God's word. ***Refrain***

*(Title: Open Your Ears, O Faithful People; Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version; © 1966, 1982 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.* *# 30148194; Music: Yisrael V’oraita, Haisidic tune; ©1995, 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. # 20209; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Reader**:

*A passage from* ***Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7****. May we be equipped by these words to walk in love for God, ourselves, our neighbours, all people, and all God’s creation.* ***(Brief pause)***

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre while he sat at the entrance of his tent in the day’s heat. He looked up and suddenly saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from his tent entrance to greet them and bowed deeply. He said, “Sirs, if you would be so kind, don’t just pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought so you may wash your feet and refresh yourselves under the tree. Let me offer you a little bread so you will feel stronger, and after that you may leave your servant and go on your way—since you have visited your servant.”

They responded, “Fine. Do just as you have said.”

So Abraham hurried to Sarah at his tent and said, “Hurry! Knead three seahs of the finest flour and make some baked goods!” Abraham ran to the cattle, took a healthy young calf, and gave it to a young servant, who prepared it quickly. Then Abraham took butter, milk, and the calf that had been prepared, put the food in front of them, and stood under the tree near them as they ate.

They said to him, “Where’s your wife Sarah?”

And he said, “Right here in the tent.”

Then one of the men said, “I will definitely return to you about this time next year. Then your wife Sarah will have a son!”

Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were both very old. Sarah was no longer menstruating. So Sarah laughed to herself, thinking, I’m no longer able to have children and my husband’s old.

The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Me give birth? At my age?’ Is anything too difficult for the Lord? When I return to you about this time next year, Sarah will have a son.”

Sarah lied and said, “I didn’t laugh,” because she was frightened.

But he said, “No, you laughed.”

The Lord was attentive to Sarah just as he had said, and the Lord carried out just what he had promised her. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son for Abraham when he was old, at the very time God had told him. Abraham named his son—the one Sarah bore him—Isaac. Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old just as God had commanded him. Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born. Sarah said, “God has given me laughter. Everyone who hears about it will laugh with me.” She said, “Who could have told Abraham that Sarah would nurse sons? But now I’ve given birth to a son when he was old!” (CEB)

The Living God is with us. **C: And with all creation! Thanks be to God.**

**Engaging with the Story**

***Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7***

Abraham and Sarah have been waiting a long time for God to make good on God’s promise. It’s been 25 years since God first called them to leave their home and their family behind because God has plans for them – to give them a land of their own and make them the parents of a great nation. 25 years they have wandered and wondered when God would finally make good on this promise. Because even though they stepped out in faith, things haven’t exactly unfolded as they had planned or hoped they would.

They are still nomads; strangers in a strange land – which is almost certainly why Abraham was so eager to show hospitality to those three men. He knows firsthand the vulnerability of traveling in the desert. And still, they have no child of their own. And with no child, how can they be the progenitors of a great nation?

As time passed Sarah thought maybe she should take matters into her own hands. She arranged for her husband Abraham to father a child with her Egyptian slave girl Hagar. To Sarah, it seemed that this might be only way for God to fulfill this covenant promise of descendants. Ishmael was born, and while his arrival brought joy to Abraham, it brought jealousy, envy, and bitterness for Sarah. This was not what God had in mind.

Abraham and Sarah made the choice to follow God’s call, with the dream that this venture would bring stability and a hoped-for future. But then life happened, as it does.

Kate Bowler, whose blessings we used during the season of Lent this year, speaks about this reality so beautifully. In a recent podcast interview she said, “I used to imagine that life was a series of choices. You know, by my sheer grit and charisma and advanced degrees that I’d be able to get through life unscathed. You know, and then. And then.”1

And then… illness strikes, as it did for Kate being diagnosed with stage 4 cancer at the age of 35.

And then… an accident or tragedy turns our world upside down.

And then… an ending comes to something we had thought was to be a forever.

And then… in spite of all our best efforts and prayers, things just aren’t going the way we really, really want them to and think they should.

The ability to think through and make choices for ourselves is part of what we have been gifted as humans. It’s something that sets us apart from other creatures. And yet, this ability to choose our path in life will not, in the end, protect us from life; from our own mortality.

To quote that famous line from Robert Burns’ poem: the best laid plans of mice and men, often go awry.” To put it in a bit more contemporary words, in spite of our best efforts and plans, life happens.

Life has not turned out as Sarah and Abraham had planned when they set out from their home 25 years ago. And at some point, I imagine, they have made some kind of peace with this within themselves. And then three strangers show up on their doorstep. Three strangers who seem to know a whole lot about Abraham and Sarah’s situation, and who make a claim so bold and outrageous that Sarah can’t help but laugh when she overhears it. She knows it’s impossible for her to have a baby. But then, against all odds, it actually comes to be.

I want to acknowledge that for some of us, Sarah’s story can raise up painful feelings. For those who have had miscarriages or struggled with infertility. For those who’ve had to deal with an unplanned or unwanted pregnancy. Talk about miraculous birth can be painful and hard to find hope in. And that’s just a truth we need to name.

What I hope we all can find in this story is a promise that in life, we can’t ever imagine what God has in mind. Can we hear in Sarah’s story the promise that impossible things might yet happen for us? It might not be the impossible thing you wanted to have happen (I’m sure Abraham and Sarah would have much rather had a child much earlier in their lives – can you imagine being new parents at 100!). But the birth of Isaac asks us to believe that there is always the possibility that we can yet be surprised by God, no matter our age.2

Your life right now may not look as you had imagined it would at this stage. But the thing about detours, setbacks, and challenges, they make us who we are. Even when they leave us a little worse for wear. And even when we didn’t choose these things for ourselves, they invite a response – a choice – from us. And I think Sarah’s response is a good one to consider – to laugh.

To laugh at the absurdity; to laugh about the pain. The best comedians are the ones who find a way to poke fun at the worst things that can happen to us. Because sometimes laughter and humour is the only way to respond to something that seems impossible or is objectively terrible. That said, feeling sad and crying are perfectly acceptable responses too! And sometimes we need both – tears and laughter.

But the promise we have in God is always, that as it was for Sarah, this first laugh will be followed by more laughter. Laughter that is about joy and life, even in the midst of all that is still hard and painful.

It gets lost in translation, but the name Isaac actually means ‘laughter’ or ‘he laughs.’ This means that every time Sarah was asked about how she chose his name she could tell the story of how she laughed at God when she was promised a son in her old age; and how now she laughs at her own lack of faith.

Many days, “It may seem as if it’s too late to keep hoping, to keep trying, to keep learning, to keep growing. But to be alive in the story of creation means daring to believe it’s not too late.”3

The questions for us, as we sit with Sarah’s story today are:

Can we trust that God will surprise us yet?

Can we trust that it’s never too late to be surprised by God?

Can we trust that impossible, beautiful things can happen for us, even if we think it’s already too late!

Things that we could never imagine for ourselves.

We can’t know the future, but we can trust that with God – our faithful, never-gives up on us or leaves us God – that with God, impossible, beautiful, life-giving things are always possible. May it be so. AMEN

1 <https://katebowler.com/podcast/a-heart-that-works-is-a-heart-that-hurts/>

2 Ideas from Rabbi Amy Robertson. Bibleworm Podcast, Episode 502.

3 Brian McLaren. We Make the Road by Walking, 31.

**Hymn of the Day: ELW # 882 ‘My Soul Does Magnify the Lord’**

1 My soul does magnify the Lord;

my spirit sings of God, my Savior,

for he has looked with love and favor

on his lowly servant.

2 From this day all will call me blest,

from now through all the coming ages.

The Lord has done great things for me and

holy is his name.

3 His mercy touches those who love,

and those who serve one another.

And with great strength he has scattered all the

proud in their conceit.

4 He cast the mighty from their thrones,

and he has lifted up the lowly.

He fills the hungry with good things while

others turn away.

5 He comes to all who seek his love,

for he remembers the promise

that he had made to Abraham and

to the children of God.

6 All glory be to God on high,

and to his Son, God the Savior,

and to the Spirit of life and truth that

burns within our hearts.

7 Just as it was, it is today,

and it shall last through all tomorrows,

and so my soul magnifies the Lord; praise

God forever. Amen.

*(Title:**My Soul Does Magnify the Lord; Text & Music: Grayson Warren Brown, b. 1948, based on the Magnificat; Text and music © 1992 Grayson Warren Brown, admin. OCP Publications. 5536 NE Hassalo. Portland, OR 97213. Used by permission. # 98297; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Prayers of Intercession:**

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

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Bless us with courage and with hope for the journey, not knowing where we are going but confident that you are leading us. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm’s way. Protect all who cry out for mercy especially the people of Libya as they recover from devastating floods; those on our prayer list: Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Helen, Sharon, Donald, Shirley, Clara, Carol, Jeff, Aaron, Mackenzie, Rhett, Linda, Jan, Ken, Robin, Lee, Maria, Deborah, Fred, Anne; and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts…. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

We pray for our siblings in Christ. For the people of St John’s Anglican Church and their pastors Father Stephen Berryman and deacon Susan Bagshaw. For the people of St Luke’s Lutheran, Kitchener and their pastor Heike Toeller. Bless them in their ministry and unite us in our mission to serve your world. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

We pray for our ushers Barb, Karen, Alex, and Austin and give thanks for their ministry of hospitality and the many duties they fulfill to support our Sunday worship. Bless them and keep them in your grace. Merciful God, **C: 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.\***

**Share the peace of Christ:**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn: ELW # 692 ‘We Are an Offering’**

**Chorus 1**

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

Lord use our voices

Lord use our hands

Lord use our lives they are Yours

We are an offering

**Bridge**

All that we have

All that we are

All that we hope to be

We give to You

We give to You

**Chorus 2**

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

We are an offering

*(Title: We Are an Offering; Text & Music: Dwight Liles, b. 1957; © 1984 Word Music, LLC. All rights reserved. Used By Permission. # 16220*

*Reprinted and Streamed with permission under CCLI, License # 11098609. All rights reserved.)*

**Offering Prayer:**

A: God of power, God of plenty,

all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table,

that all might be fed.

Form us into the body of your Beloved,

Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.\***

**Meal: Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:**

[**https://youtu.be/ViXmTzRsfU4**](https://youtu.be/ViXmTzRsfU4)

**Great Thanksgiving: ACS Setting 12: ‘Dialogue…’ (page 36) (spoken)**

The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise**

**ELW Setting 8: ‘Preface…’ *(Sundays)***

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, almighty and merciful God,

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:

**ELW Setting 8: ‘Holy, Holy, Holy…’ *(page 190 )***

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of pow’r and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**\*

**Thanksgiving at the Table:**

On the night before he showed us the full extent of his love,

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be 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.**

**Invitation to Communion:**

This is Christ’s table. All are welcome here to receive God’s abundant gifts of love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

I invite those at home, and those in the building communing by fellowship cup, to take your bread or cracker as we say together, “The body of Christ, given for us.”

And, as we take our cup we say, “The blood of Christ, shed for us.”

**Communion Music: ELW Setting 8 - Lamb of God *(page 187)***

**ELW # 773 ‘Precious Lord, Take My Hand’**

**ELW Setting 8 - Lamb of God *(page 187)***

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.\***

*(From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.)*

**ELW # 773 ‘Precious Lord, Take My Hand’**

Precious Lord, take my hand,

lead me on, let me stand,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.

through the storm, through the night,

lead me on to the light.

***Refrain:***

***Take my hand precious Lord,***

***lead me home.***

When my way grows drear,

precious Lord, linger near,

when my life is almost gone,

hear my cry, hear my call,

hold my hand, lest I fall.

***Refrain:***

***Take my hand precious Lord,***

***lead me home.***

When the darkness appears

and the night draws near

and the day is past and gone,

at the river I stand,

guide my feet, hold my hand.

***Refrain:***

***Take my hand precious Lord,***

***lead me home.***

*(Title: Precious Lord, Take My Hand; Text: Thomas A. Dorsey; 1899-1993; © 1938, 1966 Unichappell Music Inc., admin. Alfred Publishing; All rights reserved; Used by permission. # 73682; Music: George N. Allen; 1812-1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey; All rights reserved, Used by permission. # 73682; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you, in his grace.

***C: Amen.***

**Prayer after Communion:**

A: Blessed be your name, O God,

for we have feasted on your Word,

Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.

Strengthened by this food,

send us to gather the world to your banquet,

where none are left out and all are satisfied.

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.\*

**Blessing:**

Oh God, may we receive your blessing,

through sharing your blessings beyond borders.

May we receive your gifts,

from those who carry nothing.

May we recognize you,

in people we do not know

and may we all find a safe home and peace in you

who had no place to lay your head.\*

The God of all grace + bless us now and forever.

Amen

*\*Source: Claudio Carvalhaes, “Liturgies from Below.” Page 47.*

**Sending Hymn: ACS # 1022 ‘God, Bless the Hands’**

1 God, bless the hands stretched out in love

through floods below and storms above;

they search and rescue, comfort, calm,

give shelter, offer healing balm.

Oh, guard them by your steadfast hand;

reach out in love to help us stand.

2 Bring comfort to the hearts that mourn,

left broken, emptied by the storm.

Give hope to those in deepest grief;

empower us to bring relief.

To you, O God, we raise our hands.

Save us, we pray, from sinking sands.

3 O God, our strength and refuge sure,

our hope while storms of life endure:

teach us to live in harmony

with earth and river, sky and sea,

preserving waters, air, and lands

as holy work for human hands.

*(Title: God, Bless the Hands; Text: Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Text © 2019 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission # G9855; Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-1846; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Dismissal:**

P: We are a community /

Of learners and seekers /

Alive in God’s story of creation.

A: Let us go forth in joy and peace to love and serve God and our neighbours.

***C: Thanks be to God.\****

*\*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # 42368. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*