

Faithful God, we could put on the comfortable shirt of faith, but prefer fear with its frayed cuffs and stains on the front. We could slip on the loafers of peace, but squeeze into the size-too-small stiff dress shoes of anger. We could wrap truth around our lives, yet continue to punch holes in the belt of falsehood so it always fits. Forgive us.

Silent prayer of confession

Faithful God, we ask you to rescue us from our worst selves. When we are lonely, let us seek your heart as a refuge. When we are broken, let us come to you to knit us back together. When we are afraid, let us seek your embrace. May we continue to follow Jesus the Christ to hear the word of love we need in the midst of the hollow promises of the world.

Silent prayer of commitment (Amen)

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: As God listens to our voices and hearts, our brokenness is gathered up and we are made whole, as mercy and hope fill our lives. We are forgiven. We are transformed into new people. We are clothed with grace and peace, so we may go and serve as God's people.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

One: Friends, believe the good news. In Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Now extend this same grace to your neighbors around you. May the peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you. *Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.*

* Act of Praise #581

Gloria Patri

The Word

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Great God of steadfast love, we listen for your voice in the words of scripture. We listen for your call on our lives. We open ourselves to serve you through the power of the Holy Spirit who lights our way in the darkness and transforms our lives. Amen.

Children's Message

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Back to School Blessing

Roy Meland, Barbara Fretwell-Cooke,
Eunice Creswell & Pastor Lisa Schrott

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 6:10-20

Nadine Roya, liturgist

Old Testament Reading

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

Clothed in the Joy of Service

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Special Music

Hymn #250

Hymn of Promise Natalie Sleeth
[In the Bulb There is a Flower] arr: Martha Lynn Thompson
PCO Handbell Choir
Irene Shutt, Director

Responding to the Word

Minute for Service Blanket Collection for our Refugee Community Kent Workman

Offering Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* arr: Jason W. Krug

Handbell Quintet

David & Kathi Cook,

Linda & Lou Cravotta, Sarah Mayhew

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People Nadine Roya, liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy

All: **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sent Out As a People of God

*** Hymn #547** *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*, vs. 1-3
[Ar Hydy Nos]

*** Benediction** Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude *Hornpipe from Water Music* Handel
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Flowers: The flowers beautifying the sanctuary this morning are from Mickey and Rich Martin.

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Mickey Martin and Shirley Rumminger for bringing refreshments. Thank you also to Tom Schaberg and Joel Major for taking care of the coffee.

Education Hour: Updated PCO Child, Youth and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy. Learn about our policy and have training about interacting with these populations. Those who work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults are required to have this training.

Next Week September 1, 2024: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost; Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 & James 1:17-27

Education Hour: Enjoy the Labor Day weekend! No education hour for children, youth and adults.

The liturgy this morning is adapted from words from the Rev. Thom Shuman *Alternate texts liturgy for August 25, 2024 (Pentecost 14/Trinity 13/Proper 16/Ordinary 21 - B)*. It can be found at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

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Rebecca Mattern (she/her), Interim Director of Faith Formation
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
Westin Sorrel (he/him), Chancel Choir Director
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
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