



EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 23, 2023

10:00 am

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

* all who are able are invited to rise in body or spirit.

Bold indicates congregational response.

Words to hymns will not be printed in the bulletin. They will be on the screen. If you wish, hymnals are available.

CALL TO WORSHIP* (adapted from Psalm 86)

People of God, let us gather to worship and praise God's name.

I give thanks to you, O God, with my whole heart.

I will glorify your name forever!

For great is your steadfast love for me.

You have delivered my soul from the depths.

HYMN*

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

275

PRAYER OF PRAISE*

CONFESSION (UNISON)

Abba, Father, where we are in bondage to sin, set us free; restore us as your children and joint heirs with Christ. You are our hope. Lead us in the way everlasting.

(silence)

**Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy. Kyrie Eleison. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON / PASSING OF THE PEACE*

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

RESPONSE TO PARDON*

582

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me.
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me.
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
Amen.**

THE WORD WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Kum Ba Yah”

Emily, Jordan and Riley Davis, Forest Arnold

GOSPEL* – Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

SERMON *“Gardening with Jesus, Part 2”* Dr. Linda Dickerson

SAYING WHAT WE BELIEVE* *(from A Declaration of Faith)*

We know our efforts cannot bring in God’s kingdom. But hope plunges us into the struggle for victories over evil that are possible now in the world, the church, and our individual lives. Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition, however invincible it may seem, for the new world and the new humanity that are surely coming. Jesus is Lord!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/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.

SERVICE OF GODSPEED FOR HENRY, JING, AND STEPHEN

Jing, Henry, and Stephen, we rejoice in the new adventures that wait for you. We are so grateful that we got to know you, and we consider you part of our Northside family. God has blessed you and made you a blessing in our life together. Your friendship is important to us.

**You have deepened our joy and lightened our sorrow.
We will miss your dear presence, yet we rejoice that
you will now bless others as you have blessed us.**

Let us pray.

**Faithful God, keep, preserve, and protect Stephen, Jing,
and Henry all their days. Lead them to new
communities of strength. May they be salt of the earth
and light for the world. In their new endeavors, bless
them, and keep them. Remind us that, even when we
are apart, we are one. Amen.**

HYMN*

"Gather Us In"

401

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*

CHORAL RESPONSE*

**Go with God, Go with God
As you leave this place, go with God.
God will direct your way,
God will light every day.
As you leave this place, go with God.**

Isaiah Jones, Jr. Used by permission.

POSTLUDE (*please remain seated*)

LEMONADE ON THE LAWN (*everyone is invited!*)

*To those who are weary and need rest;
To all who are lonely and need friends;
To all who mourn and need comfort;
To all who pray,
and to all who do not, but ought;
To all who sin and need a Savior,
And to whosoever comes –
The Church opens wide its doors, and says,
In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Welcome."*