St. Paul's Lutheran Church Worship Sunday, September 27, 2020 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

https://vimeo.com/461938120

Prelude - O Sing of Christ

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn - Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

We gather in the name of the Father Φ and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us confess our sin.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the # Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

KYRIE
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

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setting by Brad Hall

THIS IS THE FEAST This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Lord be with you And also with you Let us pray

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading – Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Psalm 25:1-9 *Refrain*



Refrain

To | you, O LORD, I lift | up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame; rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your | ways, O LORD, and teach | me your paths. *Refrain*

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love, for they are from | everlasting.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners | in your way.

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice and teach the low- | ly your way. *Refrain*

Second Reading - Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, ^she humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did

the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - Change My Heart, O God

APOSTLES' CREED I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, for the world and for all those in need. *(SILENCE)*

In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions, change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are hungry or alone, those who are anxious, those facing difficult decisions, and those coping with illness or injury. Grant life, health and courage to all who are in need, especially Audrey, Barbara, Jan, Johanna, Tony, Charlie, JoAnn, Leon, Judy, Janet, Carol, Joyce, Barbara, Ida, Debbie, Larry, Blanche, Leslie, Jim, Bob, Ellie, Kaaren, Leigh, Bob, Sue, Phyllis, Janet, Hans, Jennifer,

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Joan, and those we name before you now, silently or vocally. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community; make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

MEAL Great Thanksgiving *Dialogue* The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

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:

Holy Holy Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of powe'r and might; Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saving: 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. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Come to the banquet for all is ready.

LAMB OF GOD 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.

Holy Communion will be available in the church parking lot on Sundays, from <u>11:15 am - 12:00 pm</u>

Please do not leave your car. We will come to you and deliver a wafer and wine or grape juice. It will be served to you in a foam bowl. Please take the elements and distribute among those in your vehicle and then dispose of the cups and bowl when you get home.

Prayer after Communion

God of the welcome table,

in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn - Voices Raised to You

Postlude - All My Heart Again Rejoices

setting by Donald Rotermund

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The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of the baptism of our grandson, Landon Nasir Sanders, by Greg and Jeanna Hudgins

Prayer of the Church (Members): Audrey Pearson, Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Johanna Nikitscher, Tony Perrotte, Charlie Bock, JoAnn and Leon Bowman, Judy Schlegel, Janet Ravert, Carol Sackett, Joyce Veazey, Barbara Anderson, Ida Elliott, Debbie Fullbright, Larry Jenkins, Blanche Bragg, Leslie Johnson, Jim Klausman, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Kaaren Johanson, Leigh Stock, Bob Lewis, Sue Dahl, Phyllis Jenkins, Janet Seiz, Hans Hillerbrand, Jennifer Bowling, Joan Albright

Our Sympathy to the family and friends of Chris Adams, cousin of Pat Casper, who died this past week.

Prayer List Changes – If you have names to **add**, or **delete at any time** - email staff, or call the office.

Prayer of the Church (Friends): Kay Matthews [Tony's mother], Robert Meissner [Tony's uncle], and Dian and Gina Piazza [friends] (by Tony and Penni Perrotte); Byron Franzen (brother of David Franzen), Laura and Mike Smith (sister and her husband by Carol Sackett), Laura Williams (friend of Amanda Anderson), Bill Lopatta (uncle of Amanda Anderson), Jane L (friend of Robin Winfree), JoAnn Sackett (daughter-in-law of Carol Sackett), Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Phillip Idom & Warner Ettinger (friends of the Perrotte's), Pamela Kildahl (sister of Wendy Waugh), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Susan Freeman, her husband Don and daughter Emma (by Joan Pepper), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Cary Grant (friend of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Lydia Taylor (cousin of Bee Ellertson), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), Donore Lantz (friend of Judy Schlegel), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Gary Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Sally Midyette (mother of Kathy Anderson), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Lois Horn (friend of Penni Perrotte), Brady Laubert (grandson of Pam and Steve Taylor), Staci Dominick (daughter-in-law of Ted and Diana Dominick), Leonard Anderson, (family friend of Ted and Diana Dominick), Marti Casalino (friend of Marcia Redman), David Deardorff (cousin of Marlene Coulter), Virginia Hinshaw (great-grandmother of Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Karen Boone (relative of Robin Winfree), Michelle Meadors, Paul and Lora Kindem and new daughter Sally Jane (by Bill and Barbara Dahl), Tony Blackwell (cousin of Pat Casper), Gad Kainer, Peggy Stevens (by John and Linda Foreman), Nancy Randle (niece of Ann and Larry Grovenstein), Adam Craig (nephew of Pat Casper), Eric Tabert (nephew of Deb Tabert), Libby Bukiewicz (mother-in-law of Julia Dahl), Twila Dahl (sister-in-law of Bill Dahl and Martha Dahl, Dean Greg Jones of Duke Divinity, Chuck Noll (friend of the Waugh's)

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"Light a Candle" -- Candles are lit for prayer intentions. To "light a candle for someone" indicates one's intention to say a prayer for another person, and the candle symbolizes that prayer. The practice of lighting candles is an important tradition in Christian churches, communities and families. Its origins may be traced back in the Old Testament times where an oil lamp is lighted to "keep a flame burning perpetually" (Exodus 27:19-20), as "perpetual incense before the Lord from generation to generation" (Exodus 30:7-8) and as a "lamp stand in the Tent of Meeting ... set up before the Lord as He has commanded Moses" (Exodus 40:24-25). In today's Christian tradition, this light has a very special place because it symbolizes Christ who said, "I am the Light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have light and life" (John 8:12). **The candle screen and votive candles are in the Narthex of the church**, along with wood tapers to light them with. You are welcome to come, light a candle, and pray. If you come after hours or when no staff is in the building, please put out the candle before you leave. Staff will check during the daytimes when they are there to make sure all are put out.

Opportunities to Worship

Because the governor has allowed outdoor gatherings of up to 50 people, we have begun outdoor worship for the first 50 people who come on Sunday mornings at 10 am. We will also broadcast these services over fm radio channel 87.9 fm with a local transmission station if you wish to stay in your vehicle.

Holy Communion will be served during this service and will be available as drive through from approximately 11:15 am until 12:00 noon weekly as well. There is a Signup Genius for people willing to help serve during these services: <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1</u>

In the case of inclement weather, we will move the 50 people inside – 25 in the Sanctuary and 25 in Trinity. **Inside there will be no singing.**

We will be using **Now the Feast and Celebration** for the outside worship. You will be required to **bring your own chair** and we will guide you to distance the placement of the chairs in the back parking lot near the Memorial Garden and the mobile classroom. **MASKS ARE REQUIRED**. Hand sanitizing dispensers will be available at the entrance to the worship space.

We will continue to record setting one weekly as well. So those who have enjoyed receiving weekly worship on our Vimeo channel can continue to do so. We will continue to need assisting ministers and lectors for this service. The Signup Genius is: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-assisting

We want to thank you all for your prayers and encouragement as we work through this difficult time.

Pour a cup of tea or coffee and join the Pastor and Vicar for Coffee Hour on Mondays on Zoom from 10-11. We are looking forward to seeing you, chatting, and catching up. Here is the info:

Topic: **Coffee Hour with the Pastor and Vicar Time: 10:00-11:00 am on Mondays** Join Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/j/91351103753?pwd=WVVCRlgrSUhhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09 Meeting ID: 913 5110 3753 – Password: 292680

Scott Anderson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom Bible Study on Thursday mornings.

Topic: **Bible Study - Acts** – You may download the lessons ahead of time by going to the home page of our website (stpaulsdurham.org)

Time: 10:30 am on Thursdays

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/946532621?pwd=UTJqYjV0V3laMmpROStMdGRvTGFhUT09 Meeting ID: 946 532 621 – Password: 402561

St. Paul's Preschool & PMO: It's that time of year to re-link your VIC Card. Please consider linking your VIC Card to the preschool so that we may receive a percentage of your sales from Harris Teeter. Our numbers **3049** and can be linked at any Harris Teeter or online. Friends and family may link too to support the preschool!

Devotions – Vicar Judy Goans is editing the Monday-Friday daily devotions. You can sign up to write devotions by visiting: <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily</u>. Email your devotions to Vicar Judy (vicar@stpaulsdurham.org) at least two days before your devotion date.

CCG Education Forum re-scheduled! We heard you: CCG members hope to give everyone a chance to join us for our Education Forum. We've been able to CHANGE the date to THURSDAY, Oct. 1, at 7:00 pm. Please join us as we explore issues of racial equity in education. We'll hear about some of the history that has led us to the current gaps in funding and achievement across schools of our state. We'll talk about some of the challenges of the digital divide, which COVID-19 has made even more crucial. We'll look for ways to support our neighborhood schools. If you would like to do some reading in advance, here is a link to our folder of shared resources: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1b7KwdLOgktlYGc6t-kxYf6tuM5Jjxscv?usp=sharing And here is the ZOOM Link for Thursday, Oct. 1: Topic: CCG Education forum Time: Oct 1, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82795785533?pwd=aHBHeVJmTzZ5WFluSVNrNnIzMG9xQT09 Meeting ID: 827 9578 5533 Passcode: 153078 Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/k4slqiK5r Hope to "see" you on Oct. 1st for our "Back to School" evening.

St. Paul's Readers: Join the discussion of <u>Liturgy of the Ordinary</u>, by Tish Harrison Warren, on Thursday, Oct 15 at 3:00 pm. The book for November is <u>A Sin by Any Other Name: Reckoning with Racism</u>, by Robert W. Lee.

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The deadline to complete the 2020 Census is fast approaching. COVID-19 brought many challenges and we risk losing millions of federal dollars that we need to support so many vital programs and services right here in Durham such as school lunches, Head Start, Medicaid, highways, medical centers, Pell grants, food stamps, and much more. You can complete the form online at <u>my2020census.gov</u> or by dialing 1-844-330-2020. The census is safe, secure and confidential and only takes 10 minutes to complete.

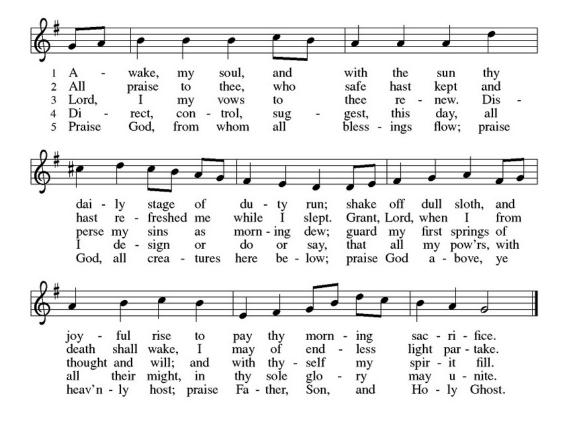
St. Paul's has a new Facebook group to allow us to communicate with each other as you feel inspired. Vicar Judy will be posting a question for discussion each week. However, please feel free to post on other topics as well. If you think this might be interesting or helpful, please join the group. The name of the group is St. Paul's ELCA - Durham, NC, and the link is https://www.facebook.com/groups/2364775460484568.

Make sure you are registered to vote! New voter? Moved? Removed from Voter Roll? visit

<u>youcanvote.org/register</u> to confirm, update or register. Three ways to vote:

- 1. Early Voting (Oct 15-31): vote at any early voting site in your county: <u>youcanvote.org/voting</u>
- 2. Election Day (Nov 3): You must vote at your assigned polling place: <u>youcanvote.org/lookup</u>
- 3. By Mail: Request an absentee ballot go to <u>youcanvote.org/voter-guide</u>

CCG - Elections and Gerrymandering: It will soon be election time! Please save the date: On **October 7th, at 7:00 pm**, the Continuing Conversation Group will host an evening Zoom session on Elections and Gerrymandering. We'll present information about the absentee ballot process, and the start of early voting, from October 15 until October 31. Please plan to join us on Zoom at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, October 7.



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt. Music: MORNING HYMN, François H. Barthélémon, 1741–1808

Hymn of the Day - Change My Heart, O God



Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953 Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services

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Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923-2007

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