

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Worship
Sunday, September 20, 2020 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost
<https://vimeo.com/459488958>

Prelude - *Choir Anthem - We Are Not Alone*

by Pepper Choplin

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn - Great Is Thy Faithfulness

733

We gather in the name of the Father ☩ 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.

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

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading – Jonah 3:10 – 4:11

After Jonah’s short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn’t I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

Psalm 145:1-8

Refrain



The Lord is slow to an-ger and a - bound-ing in stead-fast love.

Refrain

¹I will exalt you, my | God and king, and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

²**Every day | will I bless you and praise your name forev- | er and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised! There is no end | to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works | to another and shall de- | clare your power. Refrain**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty and all your | marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts, and I will re- | count your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**

Refrain

Second Reading - Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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*)

We pray for the church, gathered these days in so many strange and varied ways. Lead us in service to one another, so that all people can be seen and loved for the individuals you have created them to be.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for creation, from the enormous to the tiny, from the majestic to the simple. Help us tend to all that you have conceived, working as faithful stewards and caretakers, so that vegetation and wildlife may flourish. Help those who are victims of nature's intensity to recover and rebuild safely. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations, especially for peace in places of conflict and violence. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom, so that through respect, concern and thoughtful negotiation we might look forward one day to reconciliation and cooperation among all citizens of the world. 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 and those we name before you now, silently or vocally. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for passion and discernment here at St. Paul's. Remind us daily that you are indeed gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love. Help us to replicate that patience and that love, toward each other and for all persons we encounter. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We praise you for the generations that have declared to us your authority and your compassion. Give us faithfulness to follow in their footsteps, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in joyful song around His throne. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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, 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.
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 11:15 am - 12:00 pm**

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 - On Our Way Rejoicing

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Postlude - *Baptismal Waters Cover Me*

by *Tim Shewmaker*

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The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

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

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)

"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.

From the Covid 19 reopening Team and Pastor Scott:

Our group met after the Governor announced Phase 2.5 and made some decisions on reopening

Because the governor has allowed outdoor gatherings of up to 50 people, we will begin outdoor worship for the first 50 people who come on Sunday mornings at 10am, beginning Sunday September 20. There is a signup genius for people willing to help serve during these services.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1>

We will also broadcast these services over fm radio with a local transmission station. So if more than 50 people come they will be able to stay in their cars and listen to the service over the radio on 87.9 fm.

Holy Communion will be served during this service and will be available as drive through from approximately 11:15am until noon weekly as well.

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.** A hand sanitizing dispenser 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 will now begin to allow St. Paul's groups to reserve Trinity Hall for meetings of up to 25 people. Reservations should be placed on the church calendar by Parish Administrator Susan Esposito. admin@stpaulsdurham.org. Outside organizations will still be limited to 10 people or less for inside meetings and we are currently not encouraging outside groups to use the church building.

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=WVVCRIgrSUhhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09>

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) – **NOTE: will not be held on Sept 24!**

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

Want to assist with the worship recording? You can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-assisting> to be assisting minister for the recording on Wednesday afternoons. For more information, you are welcome to contact Pastor Scott or Vicar Judy.

The City and County of Durham need your help. The September 30th deadline to complete the 2020 Census is fast approaching. COVID-19 has presented numerous challenges for all of us and has especially affected outreach to Durham residents about the Census. As a consequence, Durham is behind. That means 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 my2020census.gov or by dialing 1-844-330-2020. The census is safe, secure and confidential and only takes 10 minutes to complete. Everyone counts!

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>. Right now, this group is open, so anyone can read messages on the group page. If we get "trolled" we may need to make the group private.

Introducing the Prison Justice Task Group

Hosted by **The Church of the Abiding Savior, Lutheran**

This is a group that I have become a member of since the pandemic began. It is a group I was introduced to by Ali and Isak Tranvik. I attended one of their earlier orientations. I am currently a pen pal with two men who are incarcerated in North Carolina prisons. It has been a truly eye opening experience into our prison system. Please read about the upcoming orientations and if you are at all interested consider attending one of the sessions.

-Ellen Lavery-

The Prison Justice Task Group is a ministry of The Church of the Abiding Savior, Lutheran and it's partners throughout the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA and beyond. We connect people in prison with pen pals on the outside and, together, as a community of prisoners and "free world allies," we seek to amplify the voices of those inside and to advocate for prisoners' civil and human rights and for the transformation of the prison industrial complex.

Because we operate entirely online and through the mail, anyone, anywhere can participate in our work. We want to invite YOU to discern if you are called to this work!

Join us for one of two orientation events. The second session is Sunday September 20th at 1:00pm- 2:30 pm to learn more about our group and how we operate.

Zoom Link for both sessions:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3070659519?pwd=UGpYcklNdVpONmtTNEI0ZTVzSDhhZz09>

Make sure you are registered to vote! New voter? Moved? Removed from Voter Roll? visit youcanvote.org/register to confirm, update or register.

3 ways to vote:

1. Early Voting: vote at any early voting site in your county
2. Election Day: You must vote at your assigned polling place
3. By Mail: Request an absentee ballot – go to youcanvote.org/voter-guide

Early Voting: October 15-31 - Find an early voting site: youcanvote.org/voting

Election Day: November 3 - vote at your assigned polling place from 6:30 am-7:30 pm. Find your assigned polling place at youcanvote.org/lookup

Let's all go BACK TO SCHOOL!

CCG (Continuing Conversation Group) invites you – yes, that includes you – to join us on **Wednesday, Sept 30 at 7:00 pm** for an evening exploring 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.

The 2020 Report of the Local School Finance Forum for North Carolina found that:

There is a widening gap between wealthier counties and those with lower levels of wealth. Wealthier counties have more taxable resources, they are able to keep tax rates low while still generating significant revenue. Conversely, lower wealth counties with fewer taxable resources have to make greater taxing effort

to support their schools. Thus, residents living in lower wealth districts face substantially greater financial burden to support public education while still finding that their schools are more poorly resourced than those in wealthier counties.

CCG members have been researching ways that St. Paul's members can support students and teachers in neighborhood schools near our church, and we hope to hear from some congregation members who are teachers. To give some historical context, Heather Slane will give a brief presentation about Rosenwald Schools in North Carolina. The CCG committee is gathering a small packet of resources for members who would like to learn more about the digital divide, and about local efforts to enhance education in Durham.

Disparity in public education is a large, very complex issue. We're planning that our **Zoom gathering on Sept. 30 will take 1.5 hours** (with a break). But even so, this can only be the first in a series of gatherings as we try to learn about the problems and look for ways that we can help contribute to solutions.

Please join us: Help us learn about this important way to support the future of our community and of all our children. The Zoom link will be sent out in Parish Notes during late September.

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.



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889–1953

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1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
 2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
 un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
 un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
 on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
 Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879