

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 16, 2023

10:00AM

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### A TIME OF GATHERING

ORGAN PRELUDE "Source of Calm Respose" F. Melius Christiansen  
O Jesus, source of calm respose, / Thy like no man nor angel knows, (1871-1955)  
Fairest among ten thousand fair! / E'en those whom death's sad fetters bound,  
Whom thickest darkness compassed round, / Find light and life, if Thou appear.  
- John Wesley (1703-1791)

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come from the east and the west, the north and the south,  
and worship the God of our fathers and mothers,  
the God of Jesus Christ.

**People:** *May the grace of Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.*

**Unison:** Amen.<sup>1</sup>

\*HYMN 15 (blue) Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

1. Rejoice, you pure in heart; lift praises to the sky;  
your festive banner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!  
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.
2. Bright youth and snow-crowned age, strong souls and spirits meek,  
raise high your free, exulting song, God's wondrous praises speak.  
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.
3. With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise,  
send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of ancient  
days.  
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.
4. Yes, on through life's long path, still singing as you go,  
from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe.  
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.
5. Praise God who rules all worlds; the risen Christ adore.  
Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God for evermore!  
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

\*INVOCATION (unison)

O God, distant yet near, we gather as witnesses to your promise that if

we seek you with all our hearts, we will find you. Be among us this day.  
Hear the confessions of our mouths and the yearnings of our hearts.  
Make us new again with your holy grace. We praise and give thanks to  
you, Eternal Presence; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.<sup>2</sup>

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LESSON from the Hebrew Scriptures Genesis 25:19-34  
"For You Shall Go Out in Joy"

SPECIAL MUSIC "To the Poor, a Lasting Treasure" Francis Patrick O'Brien  
Paul McAuliffe, piano and vocals

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23  
"Parable of the Sower"

SERMON Rev. Richard Slater

\*HYMN 612 (blue) O Jesus, I Have Promised

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;  
Be thou for ever near me, my master and my friend;  
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.
2. O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
But, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.
3. O let me hear thee speaking, in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten on control;  
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.
4. O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee  
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

### PASTORAL PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

SERVICE OF STEWARDSHIP

The Giving of Our Gifts

Interlude

“Supplication”

Christiansen

\*Doxology 515 (red) and Prayer of Dedication

\*HYMN 97 (blue)

Fairest Lord Jesus

1. Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God to earth come down; thee will I cherish,  
Thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring: Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.
3. Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moon light,  
and all the twinkling, starry hosts: Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.

\*COMMISSION

Leader: As we go out to be the body of Christ in the world, let us  
remember the two greatest commandments that Jesus gave  
us. Jesus declared:

***People: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with  
all your soul and with all your mind; love your  
neighbor as yourself; and love and care for the earth  
and all that dwells therein."***

\*BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

“Beautiful Savior”

Christiansen

*\*All who are able may stand.*

The flowers in the sanctuary are dedicated to the miracles of God's healing hand  
by Jim and Brenda Lewis.

<sup>1</sup> Reprinted from Book of Worship, c 1986, by permission of the United Church of  
Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.