



WE GATHER
"GRACE ABOUND".
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 25TH 2021

Introduction: *(Rev. Roni)*

Territorial Acknowledgment:

Introit: "Jesus Loves Me." VU#365

WE ENTER INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

The lighting of the Christ candle reminds us that God is with us. We are not alone. The Spirit helps us to open our hearts to God's wonder.

Call to Worship:

We gather hungry for a life-giving sign from you.

We are tired in body and spirit.

We are hungry for spiritual food.

Feed us with life-giving bread.

When our resources are diminished,

Your abundant provision amazes us.

We open our hearts to you O God!

Let us pray...

God of wonder, mystery, mercy and grace.

Creation reminds us of your nurturing, caring presence.

The appearance of the birds of the air after a rainstorm, renews our faith that you are mindful our needs. The lush growth of our gardens after a thunder shower reminds us that you are always choosing life.

The abundance of tomatoes on the vine, reminds us that you are more than enough for us. Our needs are met. We can't do these things, only you can! We praise God. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" VU#468

Prayer of Confession:

God of Mercy,
we confess those times,
when we rely too heavily on
our own efforts to meet our needs.

It is so easy to become anxious and fearful about not having our needs met.

It is so easy to become controlling and manipulative.

It can be tempting to hoard and claim for ourselves whatever we want.

Lead us to our proverbial knees and help us to believe in you.

Reveal your wonders to us and help us to open our hands and hearts to you.

Once more amaze us with the good things that you have in store for us so that we might believe in your goodness.

In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.

Words of Assurance:

God's steadfast love and faithfulness endures forever. Be renewed in that knowledge and be confident in God's grace.

Prayer of Preparation: *(Rev. Roni)*

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Open our hearts and minds and lives to your wisdom through this holy word. Amen.

Ephesians 3: 14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever.

Amen.

One: *Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.*

All: **Come and pray in us, Holy Spirit.**

John 6:1-21

Feeding the Five Thousand

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.' When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Jesus Walks on the Water

When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

All: Glory to you O Christ.

Piano Solo: "For the Crowd of Thousands" VU #355

Reflection: "So that we might believe..." (Rev. Roni)

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Video: "Count Your Blessings"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kY9HS3GJyx4>

Announcements: (Rev. Roni)

Invitation to the Offering:

Offertory Blessing:

Caretaker of our souls,

in your love, nothing is lost.

As Jesus gathered the leftover food

after feeding the five thousand,

gather our offerings into your service.

In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.

Lighting of the Memory Candle:

Prayers of the People:

SENT TO SHOW CHRIST'S LOVE

Hymn: "One More Step Along the World" VU#639

Commissioning and Benediction: (Rev. Roni)

Our service of worship is over!

God's service in community continues!

Go forth with the Spirit's Power!

Go now in peace:

Go now in peace, never be afraid

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

Postlude: "Jesus Shall Reign." VU#330



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