



# INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

the old stone church of independence

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## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FRIENDSHIP

*July 30, 2023 / Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 12)*



C.J. Briggs, Music Director

Julie Lehmann, Church Secretary

Joe Stern, Liturgist

Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

*The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities. ~ United Nations*

## ~ GATHERING ~

### GATHERING MUSIC

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(from 1 John 4)*

Beloved, let us love one another,  
for **God is love.**

### PRELUDE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 87)*

Holy God, Most High, who gives birth to every nation,  
**establish the city of your glory.**

Open the gates to the home of all people,  
**the place where neighbors gather to sing praises,  
the place where all peoples learn to dance together.**

Glorious things will be spoken of your city,  
**the springs of life where all the families of the earth are blessed  
and claim the city of God as home.**

Come, let us worship God.

### CHILDREN OF GOD

#### \*HYMN

GOD WELCOMES ALL  
by John L. Bell

GTG #399  
THEMA AMEN

### POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(based on Psalm 51)*

Holy God, we try to keep you close to us, but in the process, we push our neighbors away. We have been distracted in a distracting world and withheld love from each other and from you. Have mercy on us, O God. In your compassion, cleanse and release us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.  
*Amen. [Silent Confession]*

#### \*RESPONSE

LORD, HAVE MERCY  
American folk melody

GTG #551  
LAND OF REST

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(based on Romans 5)*

In the name of Jesus Christ,  
we are forgiven. Amen.

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE** *(based on Colossians 3)*

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

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

**~ THE WORD ~**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**GOSPEL LESSON**                      JOHN 14:15-17, 25-31                      (NRSV)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.  
Thanks be to God.

**HYMN**                      LONGING FOR LIGHT, WE WAIT IN DARKNESS                      GTG #314  
by Bernadette Farrell                      CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

**TORAH READING**                      GENESIS 29                      (Select Verses)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God's people.  
Thanks be to God.

**SERMON**                      JACOB LOVED

**~ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ~**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from Confession of Belhar)*

We believe: that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells; that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world. Amen.

**\*INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**\*RESPONSE**

DOXOLOGY

GTG #606

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**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.**

~ ***SENDING*** ~

**\*HYMN**

GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING  
by Jaroslav J. Vajda

GTG #547  
AR HYD Y NOS

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*SENDING**

GOD WELCOMES ALL  
*Children (and kids-at-heart) are invited to come back up.*

GTG #399

**POSTLUDE**



*Please join us after worship for Sundaes Sunday*

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Pieces of today's liturgy are from: *Book of Common Worship* (PCUSA); *Call to Worship*, *Lectionary Aids*; *Presbyterian Outlook*, Teri Ott.