



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

the old stone church of independence

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TWELFH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

August 20, 2023 (Proper 15)



illustratedministry.com

C.J. Briggs, Music Director
Julie Lehmann, Church Secretary

Nancy Bair, Liturgist
Rev. David Wigger, Pastor

*Sometimes all it takes is one kind word to nourish another person.
Think of the ripple effect that can be created when we nourish someone.*

~ Rev. Fred Rogers

~ GATHERING ~

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(from Joshua 1:9)*

Be strong, have courage, do not be afraid.

For the HOLY ONE your God is with you wherever you go.

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Back-to-School Worship Liturgy)*

Calling all children of the Living God:

the gospel is good news for every age and every stage.

Let us worship together, the young and the old.

The good news is proclaimed in God's words,

and also with crayons, silly songs, snacks, and rest time.

Let us worship together, every generation.

We come together with different abilities,

learning in a rainbow of ways and styles.

Let us worship together, with our family of faith.

All are welcome in the arms of Christ who proclaimed,

"Let the children come!"

Let us worship together, united in our eternal hope.

Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN

JESUS LOVES ME!

GTG #188

by Anna Bartlett Warner

POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Generous God, you freely offer us all we need. You offer us the bread of life, so we may never be hungry again. You offer us living water, so we will never thirst. But we scoff at your gifts, wasting our money, time, and energy on things that do not satisfy. Forgive us and call to us again, reminding us of your gifts of new life that are ours if we would only accept them. Amen. *[Silent Confession]*

***RESPONSE**

LORD, HAVE MERCY
American folk melody

GTG #551

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Incline your ear, listen: God makes an everlasting covenant with us.
God forgives us, renews us, refreshes us, and leads us onward.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

All are invited to come forward for a backpack blessing or to come after the service and pick up a backpack tag for yourself or someone you love.

~ ***THE WORD*** ~

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 15: 32-39

(NRSV)

TORAH READING

GENESIS 41

(Select Verses)

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

***HYMN**

GOD IS GOOD
Anonymous

GTG #658

SERMON

JOSEPH NOURISHED

~ ***RESPONDING TO THE WORD*** ~

***INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

***RESPONSE**

DOXOLOGY

GTG #606

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*A LITANY FOR EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

At this time I would like to invite our youth and children in school to stand.

We affirm that each of you is a precious gift from God.

Your church family believes that each of you is a gift from God filled with potential and possibility. We pray that as you learn and grow you will develop caring hearts and minds that think clearly. We believe in you and care about your education.

Let us pray—Gracious God, we lift up to you all those involved in education in this community and in all the communities in our nation and world. Guide us, great God, that we will know the best way to show our interest and support for our students, teachers and all those involved in education.

We pray for wisdom and strength to make a positive difference in the lives of those in school. We pray for courage to explore new ways of supporting the people and institutions that teach our children and youth. We pray in the name of the great teacher, Jesus. Amen.

~ *SENDING* ~

*HYMN

IN MY LIFE

GTG #468

by Bob Kilpatrick

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING

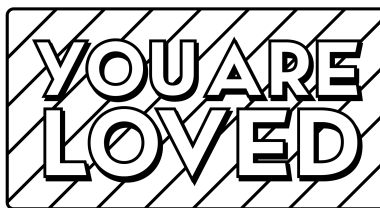
GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN

GTG #541

by Jeremiah Eames Rankin

(Verse 1)

POSTLUDE



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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. "Back-to-School Liturgy" and Cover Image provided by *Illustrated Ministry*.