

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 8, 2017

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time / Proper 22

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*Please sign and pass the Friendship Book (“pew pad”) where you can also record any prayer requests. Our prayer is that you will experience the presence of the Living God as we worship together.*

*We invite you to focus your heart and mind in worship.*

*\* indicates please stand as you are able.*

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**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Jason Stuart**

**PRELUDE**

**Piano**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**Jason Stuart**

As we are called into worship today,  
it is sobering to remember  
that when God appeared on earth in the person of Jesus,  
most of the world did not recognize him  
and therefore did not worship him.

Today we ask for the faith that will open our eyes  
to see Jesus for who he is,  
that we might worship him in truth.

People of God, behold and see your God!

**We open our eyes to see his glory.**

**We open our ears to hear his wisdom.**

**We open our hands to offer him gifts.**

**We open our mouths to sing his praise.**

**We open our hearts to offer him our love.**

**He is Lord!**

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**\*SONGS OF WORSHIP:**

**“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY! LORD GOD ALMIGHTY”**

*(Hymn 2)*

**(VERSE 1)**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

**(VERSE 2)**

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

**(VERSE 3)**

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye of sinful flesh thy glory may not see;  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
perfect in power in love and purity.

**(VERSE 4)**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

**“COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING”**

*(Hymn #45)*

**(VERSE 1)**

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise his name I'm fixed upon it  
name of God's redeeming love.

**(VERSE 2)**

Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
hither by thy help I've come;  
and I hope by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
bought me with his precious blood.

**(VERSE 3)**

O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!

Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee:  
prone to wander Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O, take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.

## TIME OF PRAYER

**Dick Raymond**

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### **Call to Confession**

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love  
with all the saints in earth and heaven.  
Knowing our unworthiness and sin,  
let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God, in every age  
you have raised up men and women to live and die in faith.  
Forgive our indifference to your will.  
You have commanded us to speak,  
but we have been silent.  
You have called us to do what is just,  
but we have been fearful.  
Have mercy on us, your faithless servants.  
Keep before us faithful people for us to follow  
so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
we may grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior  
Jesus Christ,  
to the praise of your holy name. **Amen.**

*[Silent Prayer]*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

You are no longer strangers and aliens,  
but you are citizens with the saints  
and also members of the household of God,  
built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.  
In him the whole structure is joined together

and grows into a holy temple in the Lord;  
in whom you also are built together spiritually  
into a dwelling place for God.

—Ephesians 2:19-22,

NRSV

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**SONG OF WORSHIP:**

*please remain seated*

**“IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL”**

*(Hymn #519)*

**(VERSE 1)**

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”

**(REFRAIN)**

**It is well with my soul,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.**

**(VERSE 2)**

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control:  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate:  
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

**(REPEAT REFRAIN)**

**(VERSE 3)**

My sin—O, the bliss of this glorious thought,  
my sin—not in part but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more:  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

**(REPEAT REFRAIN)**

**(VERSE 4)**

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend:  
“Even so”—it is well with my soul.

**(REPEAT REFRAIN)**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Rev. Don Meekhof**

**OFFERING OF OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS**

**Dick Raymond**

## **Invitation to the Offering**

I urge you, in view of God's mercy,  
to offer your bodies as living sacrifices,  
holy and pleasing to God—  
this is your spiritual worship.

—from Romans 12:1, NIV

### **\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below  
Praise him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## **Offering Prayer**

Ever-present God,  
with this offering we present also ourselves,  
all that we have been,  
all that we are,  
all that we shall become,  
and our resolve to walk in your way.  
Accept us and our offering, we pray, for Jesus' sake.  
**Amen.**

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*You may bring your offering and/or light a candle at the front or back of the sanctuary.*

*The children are excused at this time to attend Junior Chapel.*

## **Offertory**

**Piano**

### **“How Deep the Father's Love for Us”**

*Stuart Townend, arr. Victor Labenske*

## **READING OF THE SCRIPTURES**

**Ruby Bostrom and  
Judy Palpant**

### **Acts 6:8–15** (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

<sup>9</sup> Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen. <sup>10</sup> But they

could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.

<sup>11</sup> Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, “We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God.”

<sup>12</sup> So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. <sup>13</sup> They produced false witnesses, who testified, “This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. <sup>14</sup> For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us.”

<sup>15</sup> All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

**Acts 7:1–4; 48–50, 54–60** (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Then the high priest asked Stephen, “Are these charges true?”

<sup>2</sup> To this he replied: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Harran. <sup>3</sup> ‘Leave your country and your people,’ God said, ‘and go to the land I will show you.’

<sup>4</sup> “So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Harran. After the death of his father, God sent him to this land where you are now living.

<sup>48</sup> “However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says:

<sup>49</sup> “Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is my footstool.  
What kind of house will you build for me?  
says the Lord.

Or where will my resting place be?

<sup>50</sup> Has not my hand made all these things?”

<sup>54</sup> When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of

God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

<sup>57</sup> At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, <sup>58</sup> dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup> While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

**MESSAGE**

**André Lewis**

**“The Power of Rejection”**

**\*SONG OF WORSHIP:**

**“A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD”**

*(Hymn #43)*

**(VERSE 1)**

A mighty fortress is our God,  
a bulwark never failing;  
our helper he, amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing.

For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
his craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.

**(VERSE 2)**

Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing,  
were not the right man on our side,  
the man of God's own choosing.

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,  
and he must win the battle.

**(VERSE 3)**

And though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God hath willed  
his truth to triumph through us.

The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;  
one little word shall fell him.

**(VERSE 4)**

That word above all earthly powers,  
no thanks to them abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours  
thro' him who with us sideth.

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;  
his kingdom is forever.

**BENEDICTION**

**André Lewis**

**POSTLUDE**

**Piano**

**"In Christ Alone (My Hope is Found)"**

*Stuart Townend and Keith Getty, arr. Victor Labenske*

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*Please stay after the worship service today for Team Meetings. Not yet in a team? Come downstairs and see where you fit into Shared Ministry! The meal today is provided by Ruth Circle*

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**In the pulpit today: André Lewis** grew up in Spokane and attended Lewis and Clark High School. Upon graduation, he attended the University of Washington in Seattle. In 1993, he met his wife in Boulder Colorado while she attended the

University of Colorado. At the time André was interning with a college ministry for a PC(USA) church. In 1995, they were asked by a Presbyterian Church to start a college ministry to students at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC. After 6 years of serving college students they felt the need to be further equipped and thus began their seminary training in St. Louis. After graduating in May 2004 from Covenant Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity, the Lewis's moved to the Seattle area to share the grace of Christ by planting a new church called Redeemer Redmond. After more than a decade of ministering in Redmond, Andre accepted a call to be the next Executive Director of Spokane Youth For Christ. He has a deep love for the church and desires to see more and more strategic partnerships emerge over time. The Lewises have been married for over 21 years and have three children: Karter, Warner and Landon.

### **Today's Lectionary Readings**

**Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20      Philippians 3:4b-14**  
**Psalms 19                                      Matthew 21:33-46**

### ***Questions for Reflection***

What has been holding you captive? What would you lose if you claimed Sabbath rest? What would you gain?"

### ***Household Prayer: Morning***

Faithful God,  
you remain when others forsake.  
When I am tempted to abandon myself today,  
help me to stay present to this moment,  
that I may know and do your will.  
Through the Creator who enfolds me,  
Christ who defends me,  
and the Spirit who never abandons me. Amen.

## ***Household Prayer: Evening***

Mothering God,  
bring me back from today's distractions  
to the stillness of your presence,  
that I may rest in your enfolding arms. Amen.

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