

24th Sunday After Pentecost
November 12, 2023
WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

* Indicates the congregation is to stand.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles, moment of silence for Remembrance.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Gathered together

All: we look for what will be.

One: Expecting to worship

All: we settle our bodies and still our minds.

One: Feeling our hearts beat

All: we know our own potential.

One: Alive to all that is around us

All: we are awake to possibilities.

One: The Spirit is gently moving

All: we become a worshipping community.

One: We are ready to pray, to sing, to listen

All: we are ready to worship.

*HYMN#333, Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

PRAYER OF APPROACH/CONFESSION:

One: Holy One, we move through our days
with dreams of your banquet of justice,
your everlasting honeymoon of inclusive community.

We give thanks for all the ways
you light our paths and keep us in the ways of hope.

All: We await the way of Love.

One: Yet the way of Love can be slow in coming.

We pray for our hearts
that can impatiently stretch ahead of us
with expectations of ourselves,
our community, and God's work within us.

All: We await the way of Love.

One: We are mindful of the troubling news of these days
that weighs on our minds and spirits.

We pray for all who long for peace with justice
in their relationships, their homeland,
in all the places of your creation.

All: We await the way of Love.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

One: May we be encouraged with these words:
God does not delay in responding
but is with us always and in every circumstance.
In every word of forgiveness –

All: there is God!

One: In every move toward greater compassion –

All: there is God!

One: In every act of justice –

All: there is God!

One: When we live the way of Love,
our world shines with the presence of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN#249, Rejoice in the Lord Always (2X)

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

One: Help us this day, O God, to receive the gift of your word with joy;
make our hearts long for closeness with you. Be our ever-present guide
as we live toward your purpose and shine as witnesses to your grace and
justice. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 78:1–7#792, part 1 only

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 25:1–13

One: This is the Word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN#500, Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

SERMON:

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Our offering for God's work in the World

Offertory Hymn#542, We Give You But Your Own
Offertory Prayer

One: With these gifts, O God, we commit ourselves again
to tending the light of Christ with our words and deeds
of compassion and justice. Fill us, and these gifts,
with patience and wisdom to do your will. Amen.

Minute for Mission

*HYMN#376, Spirit of the Living God

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
(Begin page 930 prayer "C")

One: By the Spirit, we have been chosen
to be bearers of love in this world;
to illumine wherever we are
with greater truth, kindness, and justice for all.
All: move us to share the gospel in word and deed.

One: We pray for places of conflict and suffering
in our world, our community, our homes,
and within ourselves (*pause*).
For all these we pray,
All: may we be awake to Love.

One: We pray for poverty in all its forms
that tip the scales of Godly justice
creating greater vulnerability, marginalization,
and antipathy in our world (*pause*).
For all these we pray,
All: may we be awake to Love.

One: We pray for the habits, attitudes, and fears,
that cloud our vision of God's realm
and keep us from shining forth
in God's way (*pause*).
For all these we pray,
All: may we be awake to Love.

One: As children turn to a mother who watches over them,
let us turn to God saying...

All: Our Father who art in heaven...

WE GO INTO GOD'S WORLD

*HYMN#424, May the God of Hope Go with Us
*Commissioning

One: We go forth into this day
with the glory of God's anticipation
moving through us. With active longing, we await inspiration,
clarity of purpose, and new gifts of the Spirit.
Go with the light of God, affirming love of Jesus Christ,
and the ever-renewing power of the Spirit.

Sung Benediction#967, Threefold Amen

*Postlude