

# *Celebration of Worship*

## *28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

October 15, 2017

9:30 A.M.

We welcome you to worship. We are glad that you are here! Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. The Young and Young at Heart are welcomed to the front early on for a special time in the service. Please sign the Friendship Pads so that we can get to know you better, and join us for coffee in the Narthex after the service.

### **Thought for Reflection**

*“When we finally get our spiritual house in order, we’ll be dead! This goes on. You arrive at enough uncertainty to be able to make your way, but it is making your way always in darkness. Don’t expect faith to clear things up for you. It is always trust, not certainty.”*

*Flannery O’Connor*

WELCOME

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE            *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*            Courtney

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Let us worship the God of surprises! Too often, we are told that winning is everything.

**All:** *Here, in this place, we glimpse God’s reality that we must lose in order to gain.*

One: Too often, we believe that freedom means autonomy, that we are in charge of our lives.

**All:** *Here we learn again that true freedom only comes from God. We are truly free when we follow Christ and obey God’s commandments.*

One: Too often, we are told that we are what we have, that wealth reigns and power rules.

**All:** *Here, in this place, we remind one another of God’s good news: “The stone that was rejected by the builders has become the chief cornerstone.” Let us worship the God of surprises! Let us prepare our hearts and minds to hear God’s startling good news once again!*

\* Please stand, if you are able.

\* PRAISE MEDLEY *This Is the Day That the Lord Has Made  
You Are Holy (Prince of Peace)*  
Praise Team

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER RECOGNITION

PRESENTATION OF CHILDREN’S BIBLES

FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message                            *A Gift from Clara and David*

Prayer  
*(Children in PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade are dismissed for Sunday School.)*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20*                            p. 58

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *Philippians 4:1-9*                            p. 955

SERMON                            *Prayer: Impediments, Pitfalls and Practices*  
Part 2 of a Series on Prayer, extending through Advent  
Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. De Vuyst

A TIME OF CONFESSION (in unison)

O God, you search after us when we have gone far from you, yet we confess that we have become consumed with our own affairs. We seldom pause to listen for the wind in the trees or to hear the happy voices of children. Sometimes we feel the burdens of the world fall entirely on our shoulders, and we have been slow to put our trust in you or to cooperate with others. Whenever we take ourselves too seriously, remind us that we are only human!

Make us patient with our own mistakes, even as we are willing to forgive others. And remind us that we are also precious, not because of our goodness, but because you have accepted us and called us to be your very own. Amen.

REMEMBERING GOD’S AMAZING GRACE

\* HYMN                            *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*                            # 427

THE MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Pastorale* Hayes  
SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS  
MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (Debts/Debtors)  
\* HYMN *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* # 298  
\* BENEDICTION  
BENEDICTION RESPONSE *The Peace of God* Rutter  
Chancel Choir  
The peace of God, which passeth all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.  
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost  
be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.  
\* POSTLUDE *Allegro* Anonymous