

*“So it is with those
who store up treasures
for themselves but are
not rich toward God.”*

LUKE 12:21

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 31, 2022

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Extravagant God, you offer riches that no earthly pleasures can match. You pour out mercy and cover us with love. You show us true justice and offer us peace. You provide us with every need and promise us eternal life with you. In the midst of the glitz and glamour of this world, nothing, and no one, shines with your brilliance. Bathe us in the light of Christ, illumine us with your Holy Spirit, and enable us to live only for you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME + ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Theme and Variation on Rock of Ages* Hegarty
Dr. Terry McRoberts

INTROIT *Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus* LEMMEL
(Choir + congregation)
*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *Rev. John White*

One: So many things draw us away from God.
ALL: *We are tempted by trinkets and gadgets.*
One: We place our interest in temporal things.
ALL: *But Christ calls us to a higher level.*
One: We are called to focus our lives on living as God would have us live.
ALL: *We are called to be open to ways of service and compassion.*

***HYMN OF PRAISE: 643** *Now Thank We All Our God* NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

TO PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION *Rev. Courtney Bowen*
One: We know that we have fallen short of God's ideal for our lives. Let us confess our sin to God now, trusting in God's grace revealed in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF TO CONFESSION *Rev. Courtney Bowen*
Merciful God, we live in a society that focuses on gathering things. We collect, store, gather items, gadgets, even people. We focus our energies on our collections providing adequate room for them and yet we bar the door to the needs of others, of those who have little or nothing, of those for whom life has been a constant struggle. (continued)

We are sorry for the ways in which we have failed you. Forgive us. Turn us around to look at the ways in which our wealth, both of substance and spirit, can be used for healing and hope. Enable us to be in ministry to those in need and to care for this world. For we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Children of God, blessings have been poured upon you so that you may use them to help others. God walks with you and guides your steps as you reach out in compassion, mercy and justice to all in need.

Many: *In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.*

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 447 We Are Forgiven**

WE ARE FORGIVEN

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Rev. John White

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: *And, also, with you.*

THE WORD

***HYMN: 175 Seek Ye First**

LAFFERTY

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Courtney Bowen

ACT OF PRAISE

Goin' to See the King

Curry

Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. John White

FIRST READING

Colossians 3:1-11 (pg. 201)

Rev. John White

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

ALL: *Thanks be to God.*

SECOND READING

Luke 12:13-21 (pg. 74)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

ALL: *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

Your Life is Being Demanded

Rev. Courtney Bowen

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*The Confession of 1967*)

Rev. John White

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center aisle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)

OFFERING

Rev. John White

OFFERTORY

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier

Bach/Cohen

Dr. Terry McRoberts

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

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.

*Dedicatory Prayer

Rev. John White

***HYMN: 697** *Take My Life*

HENDON

SENDING

***CHARGE + BENEDICTION**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

(We request that you remain seated until after the Postlude and ask that you use the Postlude as a time to reflect upon the scripture that was read in today's service.)

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Kerr

Dr. Terry McRoberts