



WELCOME HOME!

AUGUST 24, 2025 9:00 A.M.

We kindly ask that you silence your cellphones and electronic devices as we create a sacred space for contemplation and prayer.

† - Please rise in body or in spirit.

Chiming the Hour

Welcome & Announcements

GOD GATHERS THE SCATTERED

Prelude

Dearest Children, God is Near You

arr. R. Manookin

† Call to Worship

Michael Elliott

One: God calls out to us! Come to me today & become strong!

Many: Well, "strong" has many meanings!

One: My Spirit can make you so strong that you are willing to become vulnerable without fear, honest without deception, and accepting without judgment.

Many: Christ's rising has made us stronger. We can feel it in our bones.

One: Yesterday, your ancestors gathered here and found strength in me to build this place and tell my stories.

Many: THEIR faithfulness makes our faith real. Make our faith bold and beautiful enough to hold others through the night!

† Hymn

In Unity We Lift Our Song

TFWS 2221

1. In unity we lift our song
of grateful adoration,
for brothers brave and sisters strong.
What cause for celebration!
For those whose faithfulness
has kept us through distress,
who've shared with us our plight,
who've held us in the night,
the blessed congregation.

2. For stories told and told again
to every generation,
to give us strength in time of pain,
to give us consolation.
Our spirits to revive
to keep our dreams alive,
when we are far from home
and evil seasons come;
how firm is our foundation.

3. For sacred scriptures handed down,
a blessed trust and treasure,
which give us hope when hope is gone
and make us weep with pleasure.
And when our eyes grow blind
and death is close behind,
we shall recite them still
whose words our hearts can fill
with hope beyond all measure.

4 For God our way, our bread, our rest,
of all these gifts the Giver.
Our strength, our guide,
our nurturing breast
whose hand will yet deliver.
Who keeps us till the day
when night shall pass away,
when hate and fear are gone
and all our work is done,
and we shall sing forever.

† Opening Prayer by George Herbert (from *The Temple*, 1633)

Nave: Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death.

Choir: Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

All: Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS THE WORD TO US

Children's Moment

Dr. Parkes

A Reading from the Letters of Paul

Ephesians 4:1-16

One: Word of God, Word of Life! Many: Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Sing! Shout! Praise!

Pepper Choplin

We welcome the return of The Chancel Choir following their summer hiatus!

Sermon

Together We Are Stronger

Rev. Dr. Sam Parkes

GOD INSPIRES US TO RESPOND

Prayer of Confession

God of Grace and God of Glory,
tell us the truth and tell it with love.
We are so shortsighted.
We confess that you have given us myriad opportunities to "step up."
But too often we have relied
 on our most overworked church leader – Someone Else.
How many times will we hear your call
 to strengthen your Church
 and hope Someone Else hears, too?
How many times will you forgive us
 for keeping our gifts and abilities nestled in tissue paper
 and packed away?
Or how many times will you forgive us
 for pouring our gifts and talents out elsewhere
 to serve ourselves but not here to strengthen this family?
Give us grace to both see needs and act on them,
 to know our church's need and respond,
 to feel our own need and allow others to love us.
Or will we rely once again on Someone Else?
The winds of culture and politics may blow us around,
 but, rooted in the faith of our forebears and your mercy,
 we can be strong enough to take risks,
 brave enough to face change, kind enough to offer hope,
 and loving enough to speak the truth.
We confess this in the name of Jesus,
 who is above all, and through all, and in all,
 who with you and the Holy Spirit reign eternally,
 one God, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hymn

We Are One in the Spirit

TFWS 2223

1. We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored

3. We will work with each other
We will work side by side
We will work with each other
We will work side by side
And we'll guard each one's dignity
And save each one's pride (Chorus)

Chorus: And they'll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians
By our love

2. We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news
That God is in our land (Chorus)

4. All praise to the Father
From whom all things come
And all praise to
Christ Jesus His only Son
And all praise to
The Spirit who makes us one (Chorus)

The Baptismal Covenant & Reception of New Members

See Insert

† The Peace

One: The Peace of the Lord Jesus be always with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

The Offering

Offertory

Fanfare on "Llanfair"

arr. Edward Broughton

† Doxology

UMH 94

† Prayer of Gratitude

GOD SENDS US TO THE WORLD

† Hymn

Pass It On

UMH 572

1. It only takes a spark
To get a fire going
And soon all those around
Can warm up in its glowing

That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it
You spread His love to ev'ryone
You want to pass it on

2. What a wondrous time is spring
When all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing
The flowers start their blooming
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it
You want to sing it's fresh like spring
You want to pass it on

3. I wish for you my friend
This happiness that I've found
You can depend on Him
It matters not where you're bound
I'll shout it from the mountain top
I want my world to know
The Lord of love has come to me
I want to pass it on

† Dismissal with Blessing

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

“Gloria” from *Magnificat VI*

Marcel Dupre

It is the habit of some to remain seated through the postlude to savor a few last moments of prayer before returning to the world. Others must leave to gather children or help with other activities. We only ask that you do so quietly until you reach the Narthex. We are grateful you chose to be part of our family today!