

Welcome to the
Setauket Presbyterian Church
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Order of Worship

September 17, 2023

❖ *please rise in body or in spirit; unison words are in bold.*

GATHERING MUSIC *I Was Glad* Hubert Parry (1848-1918)

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *When All Thy Mercies, O My God* M. Alfred Bischel (1909-1992)

The Light Enters

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 103)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all the Lord's benefits!

The Lord forgives all our sins;

the Lord heals all our wounds;

the Lord redeems our life from the Pit;

the Lord crowns us with steadfast love and mercy;

the Lord satisfies us with good as long as we live

so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all the Lord's benefits!

OPENING PRAYER

❖ **HYMN no. 385** *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we confess that we have failed to live in harmony with our sisters and brothers. We have been self-righteous in our attitudes, closed-minded in our beliefs, and judgmental in our opinions. We have shunned those whose ways we do not understand, and we have despised those who do not endorse our convictions. Forgive our sins of discord and conceit and heal our divisiveness and quarreling. Help us to be patient and charitable towards others so that we might dwell in peace with Christ, who is Lord of all. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Friends, the Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

In the name of Jesus Christ, know that we are forgiven and give thanks and praise to God.

Alleluia! Amen!

SUNG RESPONSE no. 443 *There Is a Redeemer*

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit open our ears so that we may receive the Word of life and take to heart all that you would have us understand about you, your Son, and the Spirit. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 14:1-4

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

ANTHEM *Peace Like a River/Kum Ba Yah* African-American Spirituals,
arr. Jean Anne Shafferman (b. 1953)

Someone's singing, Lord, Kum Ba Ya.

I've got peace like a river in my soul

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Johanna McCune Wagner

❖ **HYMN no. 829** *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now*

Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748)

❖ **DOXOLOGY no. 609**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures high and low:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

❖ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE**

Lord, we know that we cannot pretend to match your grace and compassion, but with Jesus by our side we can seek to do good in this world together. Help us to live with open hands and open hearts so that this morning's gifts might serve your gospel of love and forgiveness. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

❖ **HYMN no. 547** *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

❖ **CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

Go in peace,
practice forgiveness,
live the gospel,
live with integrity.

The blessing of God be with you,
the love of Jesus fill you,
and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you,
now and forevermore. Amen.

POSTLUDE

O Church Arise

Keith Getty, Kristen Getty,

Stuart Townend, arr. James Koerts (1976-2023)

Today's liturgy is adapted from *Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2* and *Connections Worship Companion, Year A, Volume 2*.

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We welcome **Roxanne Kiefer Mollo** our Worship Assistant this morning. Thanks to her for this service!
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