

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost | October 29th 2023

\*Please stand as you are able

**Welcome and Announcements**

Trinity Chimes

**Prelude** *Solemn Prelude on ST. ANNE* Charles Joseph Frost

**\*Call to Worship:**

One: Come, let us celebrate God, our home wherever we are!

**All: God's love is with us!**

One: Come, let us follow Christ's example in loving God, self, and neighbor!

**All: God's love invites us!**

One: Come, let us move with the Holy Spirit to change the world.

**All: For God's love transforms us and all, amen!**

**\*Hymn of Praise** 117 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* ST. ANNE

1. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

2. Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure; sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.  
  
3. Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame, from everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.  
  
4. A thousand ages, in thy sight, are like an evening gone;  
short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.

5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all who breathe away; they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.  
  
6. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come;  
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

Opening Prayer

**Holy Spirit lure us to new priorities; open spaces to experience wonder, strangers who become friends, and devotion to that which transcends.  Teach us to love the Lord our God, with all our heart, soul, and mind, and love our neighbors as ourselves.  Amen.**

Adapted from work by Katherine Hawker

Scripture Lesson Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 (UMH 809)

Lord, you have been our dwelling place

in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,

or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

You turn us back to the dust,

and say, Turn Back, O mortal ones!”

For a thousand years in your sight

are but as yesterday when it is past,

or as a watch in the night.

You sweep them away, they are like a dream,

like grass which is renewed in the morning:

in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;

in the evening it fades and withers.

Return O Lord! How long?

Have pity on your servants!

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,

that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,

and as many years as we have seen evil.

Let your work be manifest to your servants,

and your glorious power to the children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,

And establish the work of our hands;

yes, establish the work of our hands.

**Music of Preparation** *My Savior's Love* by David Schwoebel

The Chancel Choir

**Scripture Lesson** Matthew 22:34-46

Sermon Bound by Love

Musical Response

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Confession:

**Lord, you have told us what to do. But this love thing is hard. You’ve invited us to love you with everything we have; instead, we have fallen in love with all the wrong things. Loving you is scary, and we often opt for another way. You’ve invited us to live in loving relationships with everyone we encounter, but there are folk who are downright hard to love. We confess our inability to love as we should. We need your forgiveness and help living out this love thing. Free us to love as you do. Amen.**

Adapted from work by Lillian C. Smith, The Africana Worship Book, Year A (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006), 150.

Leader: Hear the good news: God walked upon this earth

sharing our human life in Jesus Christ,

All: God has conquered sin and death forgiving us all

through Love and Grace

Leader: In the name of Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God, amen!

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

\*Passing of the Peace

Stewardship Moment: Don Finch

Invitation Offering

Offertory *Jesus Loves Me*  arr. Fred Bock

\*Doxology 95 *Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow*

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.

\*Offertory Prayer

\*Sending Hymn 432 *Jesu, Jesu* CHEREPONI

(Refrain)

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their

feet, Master who acts as a slave to them.

2. Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and

white, neighbors are near and far away.

3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones

we should love; all these are neighbors to us from you.

4. Loving puts us on our knees, serving as though we are

slaves, this is the way we should live with you.

5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their

feet, this is the way we should live with you.

\*Benediction

**Go forth today as people caring for people that in living a life patterned after God’s grace, you may share the hope, joy, forgiveness, and love you receive from God with your**

**neighbors wherever you go!**

Adapted from work by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2023.

**Postlude**  *Toccata in D Minor* J.S. Bach

Liturgist: Dot Waugaman

Stephen Minister: Georgia Carmichael

Thank you to all of the volunteers and staff who made this service possible!

ONE LICENSE A-738133 | CCLI #12393 | Perform Music #662 | CVLI #03793174

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past*”*

Words: R. Deane Postlethwaite (Dt. 32:11)

“Jesu, Jesu”

Words: Tom Colvin, 1969 (Jn. 13:1-17)

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