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Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost | September 14th, 2025

\*Please stand as you are able

**Welcome and Announcements**

Trinity Chimes

Prelude *To God Be The Glory* arr. L. Lamb

The Christ Church Ringers

\*Call to Worship

One: As far as the east is from the west,

All: So is the vastness of God’s grace.

One: As wide as the Universe’s starry expanse

All: So is God’s love endless.

One: As deep as the sea, is God’s forgiveness

All: And we are called to learn to extend grace, love, and forgiveness, just as God does.

**\*Hymn of Praise** 89 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,

God of glory, Lord of love,

Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,

opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,

drive the dark of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness,

fill us with the light of day!

2. All thy works with joy surround thee,

earth and heaven reflect thy rays,

Stars and angels sing around thee,

Center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,

Flowery meadow, flashing sea,

Chanting bird and flowing fountain,

Call us to rejoice in thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving,

Ever blessing, ever blest,

Wellspring of the joy of living,

Ocean depth of happy rest!

Thou our Father, Christ our brother,

All who live in love are thine;

Teach us how to love each other,

Lift us to the joy divine.

4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus

Which the morning stars began;

Love divine is reigning o'er us,

Binding all within its span.

Ever singing, march we onward,

Victors in the midst of strife;

Joyful music leads us sunward,

In the triumph song of life.

**Opening Prayer**

**God who knows us from breath to breath, we are messy, tangled beings, prone to break more than we mend. Remind us that just as we are your beloved, so are *all* people. Teach us compassion so that we might walk beside one another as Christ walks with us. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading Psalm 139: 1-6; 13-18**

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!  
**You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar..**You search out my path and my lying down,  
     and are acquainted with all my ways.  
**Even before a word is on my tongue,  
     O Lord, you know it completely.**You pursue me behind and before,  
     and lay your hand upon me.  
**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
    it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
**you knit me together in my mother’s womb.**  
I praise you, for you are fearful and wonderful.  
**Wonderful are your works!**  
You know very well:  
     **my frame was not hidden from you,  
 when I was being made in secret,  
     intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.**Your eyes beheld my unformed substance;  
 **in your book were written  
     the days that were formed for me,  
   every day, before they came into being.**How profound to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!  
**If I would count them ,they are more than the sand. When I awake, I am still with you.**

**Music of Preparation**

*Prelude on* *Ar Hyd y Nos* (*All Through the Night*)

arr. J. Behnke

The Christ Church Ringers

Gospel Lesson Matthew 18:15-22

**Sermon** Walking the walk: Messy people and forgiveness

Rev. Beth Rambikur

Music of Response

Prayers of the People

Confession and Pardon

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors,  
and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor:  Hear the Good News, Christ is among us renewing us for life with love.  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

Invitation to Offering

Offertory *I Can Only Imagine* Bart Millard

Tom Messmore, solo

\*Doxology 94

*Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

\*Offertory Prayer

**\*Sending Hymn**   560 *Help Us Accept Each Other* ACCEPTANCE

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some, to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

3. Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter’s healing art.

4. Lord, for today’s encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on; renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

\*Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Postlude  *Toccata No. 6 (Ein' Feste Burg)*

arr. Joel Raney

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

Liturgist: Paula Jameson

Stephen Minister: Shawne Sidles

Golf Cart Drive: Ron Thompson

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“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Words: Henry Van Dyke, 1907; st. 4 alt. 1989

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

Words: Fred Kaan, 1974 (Jn. 15:12)

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