

**REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Serving Absecon - Galloway Township**  
**Rev. Heidi Link – Pastor**  
**Brian Conover - Music Director**

**Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / 10:00 AM**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: We are blind, yet we believe that we see.

**P: Lord, heal our blindness.**

L: We utter words of prejudice and hatred, yet we believe that our words hold compassion.

**P: Lord, heal our thoughts and our words.**

*(Soloist sings “Open Our Eyes”.)*

L: Help us to see our compassionate Lord.

**P: Help us to hear Jesus’ words of forgiveness.**

L: Reach into our hearts, Lord, and give us healing.

**P: Reach into our lives, Lord, and teach us to love. AMEN.**

*(Soloist sings “Open Our Eyes”.)*

text © ministrymatters.com  
song © 1976 Maranatha Music

**\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our comforter:

**like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ✚ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

**\* - Congregation Stands (If for any reason you are unable to stand during the service, please remain seated.)**

**\* OPENING SONG**

## Lift High the Cross



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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**\* GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray: O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a** (for text of reading, see back of bulletin)

**RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 116:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

<sup>2</sup>**for the LORD has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;  
I came to grief and sorrow.

<sup>4</sup>**Then I called upon the name of the LORD:  
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

<sup>5</sup>Gracious is the LORD and righteous;  
our God is full of compassion.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD watches over the innocent;  
I was brought low, and God saved me.**

<sup>7</sup>Turn again to your rest, O my soul.  
for the LORD has dealt well with you.

<sup>8</sup>**For you have rescued my life from death,  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

<sup>9</sup>I will walk in the presence of the LORD  
in the land of the living.

**SECOND READING: James 3:1-12** (for text of reading, see back of bulletin)

**\* HYMN OF PRAISE**

**I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me**



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad  
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift-ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,  
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift-ed me. I'm so glad  
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift-ed me,  
When I was in trou - ble,



sing-ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

**\* THE WORD OF GOD: Mark 8:27-38**

A reading from the Gospel of St. Mark:

*(for text of reading, see back of bulletin)*

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG**

**Will You Come and Follow Me**

*The Summons*



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
your name? Will you care for cruel and  
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?  
kind and nev - er be the same?  
free and nev - er be the same?  
side and nev - er be the same?  
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be  
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"  
 pray'r in you and you in me?"  
 mean in you and you in me?"  
 sound in you and you in me?"  
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949  
 Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional  
 Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
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**\* APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

**\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.  
*A brief silence.*

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. (*Especially as we celebrate Labor/Labour Day,*) unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

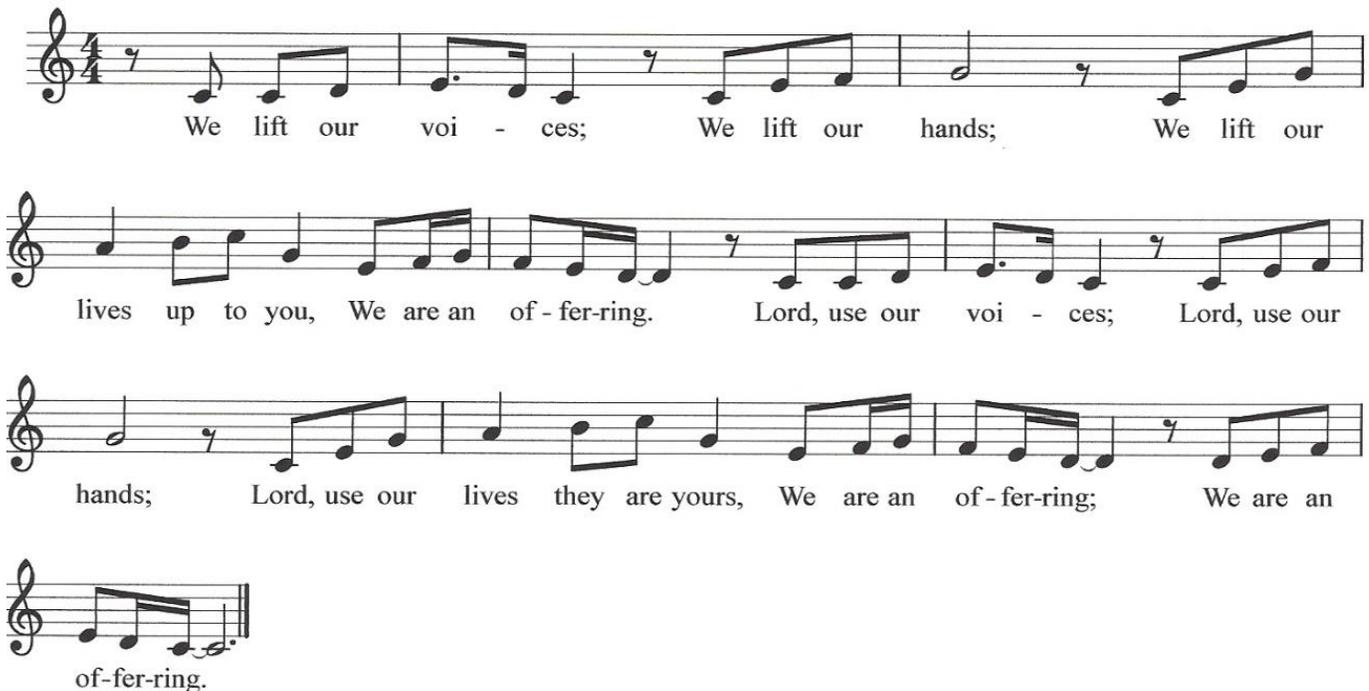
Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## OFFERING

### SPECIAL MUSIC

#### \* OFFERING SONG



We lift our voi - ces; We lift our hands; We lift our  
lives up to you, We are an of - fer-ring. Lord, use our voi - ces; Lord, use our  
hands; Lord, use our lives they are yours, We are an of - fer-ring; We are an  
of-fer-ring.

#### \* OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**\* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary...*(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



**Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:**



**Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.**



**Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes**



**in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.**

**\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\* 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 and ever. Amen**

**\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

**We come.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

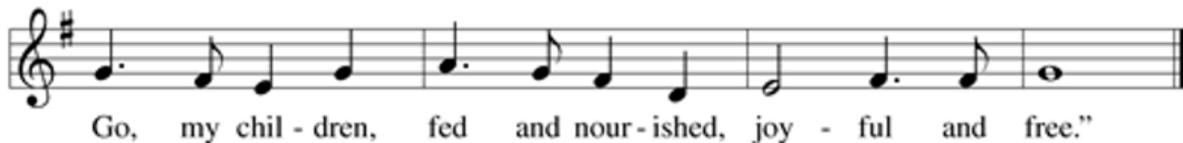
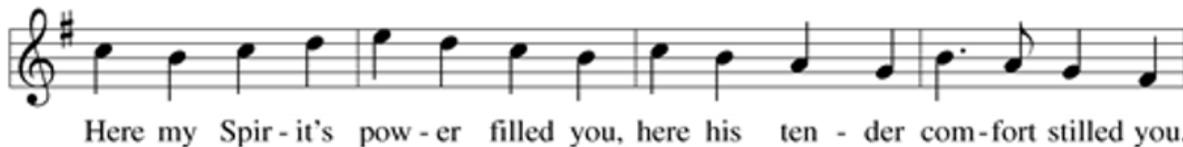
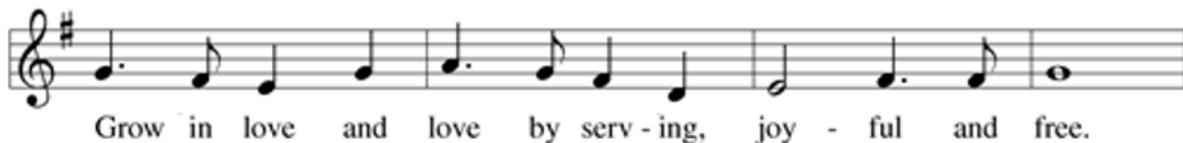
*(BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who believe that the risen Christ is present in the Eucharist to forgive sin and renew life are invited to share at your pew. Please remain there, kneel as you are able, and receive the elements using the communion packet you were given. If there are other special needs, please speak to an usher.)*

### \*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

### \* POST COMMUNION HYMN

#### Go, My Children, with My Blessing



### \* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray: Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### \* BLESSING

And now a Blessing: People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ✚ one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

\* CLOSING SONG

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Refrain*



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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\* SENDING

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

**Thanks be to God.**