



Shallotte Presbyterian Church

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

14th Sunday after Pentecost | August 29, 2021

CALLED BY GOD WE GATHER

GATHERING MUSIC AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Greet each other in joy. When the chimes toll, let us prepare silently for worship.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

*(All speak words in **boldface**.)*

We are called to times of joy.

We are called to times of play.

To release from the grip of schedules and agendas.

To bask in the warmth of God in creation, in love, in laughter.

We are called to times of worship.

Let us answer that call, sure of the lightness of God's grace.

*HYMN-SING OF PRAISE

(This morning, we will call on several of you to choose our hymns of praise.

**Indicates where it is appropriate, but not necessary, to stand.)*

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

God of all glory and grace – of dancing Trinity –
we see around us the proof of your creativity and whimsy.

There is no complete logical explanation
for the way kittens play

and the way children sometimes say
the most accurate, embarrassing things.

You designed all your children to run until we're giddy and breathless,
to converse in ways that, in mere moments,
can make an entire group dissolve into uncontrollable laughter.

You built within our minds
a fascination for solving riddles and working puzzles.

You gave us the ability to skip or to roll down a hill,

though most of us give that up as we are taught to grow up.
The truth of life is that fun is not always a choice.
we enjoy but we also grieve,
we play but we also cry,
we shout for joy but also scream in pain.
Lord, life is complicated,
it is full of ups and downs,
and we do not always respond in ways that honor you
or reflect the teachings of Jesus.
We silently confess our short-comings to you.

(Silent confession)

O God, **forgive us.**

Help us to delight in you - and delight you - by living and playing in ways that restore true communion. Restore in us a desire to make friends of strangers and to truly love all of our neighbors. May we never tire of the joyful work of being your church, being your love, and being loved. In Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Friends, sin is a serious business, as it puts distance between us
and the boundless love we long to experience
and that God longs to give.

Thanks be to God, our *joy* is as boundless as God's
when we remember this very good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, set free,
and invited to dance with abandon in the fields of grace.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

GLORIA PARTRI (Greatorex)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, amen.**

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD OF GRACE

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-11

MUSIC

Love Grows Here

Don Besig

Alberta Gisel, alto; Ken Curry, tenor

SERMON

"Let Us Play"

Rev. Laura Viau

TO RESPOND IN FAITH WITH GRATITUDE

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the
power; and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God, our Parent, the Creator
Singing the Spirit over the chaos of creation
God made all that is beautiful and good and precious.
Giving songs to the prophets and melodies to the people
God saved them from flood and fire and famine.
Hearing the cries of those in exile and oppression
God came in flesh, and comes in our flesh today.**

**We believe in Jesus, our Savior, the Christ.
Cooing into silent nights,
Jesus entered the world amongst the lowly.
Chanting songs of freedom,**

Jesus proclaimed good news to the captive.
Wailing and weeping,
Jesus understood the stress and sorrow of a broken world.
Frolicking around wells and streams,
Jesus opened hearts to Living Water.
Dancing through death,
Jesus invites us to proclaim life in death's bitter sting.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, our Power, the Comforter
Breathing delight and joy into God's people
The Spirit flows through David's poetry and Solomon's Wisdom
Giving insight to those who long to see
The Spirit revealed Jesus to Anna, Simeon and Nicodemus
Gathering the many, and blessing them with gifts
The Spirit creates and re-creates the Body of Christ
With believers in every time and place, we affirm that
the Creator, Savior and Spirit are active
In us, for us and through us, now and always. Amen

TO DEPART BLESSED TO SERVE

*HYMN DENNIS
Blest Be the Tie That Binds
Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
 TEXT: John Fawcett, 1782 MUSIC: Johann Georg Nägeli, 1828 P.D.

*BENEDICTION AND CHARGE

CLOSING MUSIC



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