



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

18th Sunday after Pentecost | September 26, 2021

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

*All speak words in **boldface**.*

❖ Called by God We Gather ❖

GATHERING MUSIC, WELCOME, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Gather and greet each other in joy.)

RINGING OF THE TRINITY AND CALLED TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

(When the chimes toll, let us silently open our spirit to God's presence in our midst.)

Voluntary on "The Lord Is God"

arr. Robert Powell

OPENING SENTENCES

God, you call each of us to serve you, and we answer,

"Here I am!"

Jesus, you call each of us to follow you, and we answer,

"Here I am!"

Holy Spirit, you call all of us to worship you this day,

and we answer, "Here we are!"

*HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

(This hymn speaks of God's great love that transforms us.)

***Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.***

***Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.***

***Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.***

***Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.***

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt. PD MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831, alt. PD

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

Heavenly Parent, you have called us your children.
And through Jesus
you have invited us into new life
and onto new pathways.
When we first decide to come and see,
your grace sparkles.
The newness of our relationship
compels us to linger in your presence.
As we take to the road with Jesus,
following, listening, learning, practicing,
you send your Spirit to accompany us.
And yet, there are so many other pursuits that call out to us.
When following you becomes difficult,
we seek an easier path.
We forget who we are,
and where we are meant to abide.
But here, now, in your presence again,
we choose to be honest
with ourselves and you.
In the presence of our family of faith,
we confess the ways we have grieved you,
by wasting your gifts, by wandering from your ways.

(Time of Silent Confession)

Gracious God,
**give us strength to follow you,
wherever you might lead.
When we tire, renew our strength.
When we flag, breathe deep into us.
When we meander, bring us back.
When we question, grant us clarity.
Called to come and see, then go and tell,
help us to follow in faith.
Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Friends, we are followers of Jesus,
yet we stumble and fall along the way.
The good news is that
Jesus does not condemn us,
but lifts us up to continue the journey.
Through the grace of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven and loved. Amen.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Love Divine, All Love Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

***Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.***

❖ To Hear God's Word of Grace ❖

OLD TESTAMENT READING Mark 12:28-34

MUSIC *The Gift of Love* arr. Hal H. Hopson
(The gift of love thrives in community. Follow text using hymnal #693)
Gail Thomas, soprano; Ken Curry, tenor

SERMON "No Holding Back" 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.**

*SCRIPTURAL AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Mark 12:29-31

A scribe asked Jesus, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is,

**'Hear, O Israel:
the Lord our God, the Lord is one;
you shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'**

The second is this,

'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

There is no commandment greater than these."

Amen.

❖ To Depart Blessed to Serve ❖

*HYMN

The Lord Is God

AZMON

***The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise
to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.***

***With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might,
O people, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.***

***At night or day, at home, away, together and apart,
O children, take these holy words and keep them in your heart.***

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2011 MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828 PD Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)
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*BENEDICTION AND CHARGE

CLOSING MUSIC



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