

References

- Call to Worship adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012*, © 2011 Abingdon Press. Posted on the Ministry Matters website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>
- Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon adapted from those written by James E. Janecek, in *Seeds of Faith: Service Prayers for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*. Posted on the United Church of Christ's **Worship Ways** archive. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c/p/pentecost-ordinary-time-21.html>
- Offering Invitation adapted from words written by Rev. Kathryn Matthews Huey, Minister for Covenantal Stewardship, Stewardship and Church Finances Ministry Team in Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ for *Sunday, September 21 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time*. [https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/unitedchurchofchrist/legacy\\_url/3825/offering-invitations-for-ordinary-time.pdf?1418427555](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/unitedchurchofchrist/legacy_url/3825/offering-invitations-for-ordinary-time.pdf?1418427555).
- Prayer of Dedication adapted words written by J. Reiter of First Presbyterian Church Winter Haven at website: <https://www.firstpreswh.org/daily-devotional/the-lords-day-offering-and-prayer-of-dedication/>
- Benediction written by Nancy Townley. Posted on the Ministry Matters website for July 12, 2020. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1137/worship-connection-july-12-2020>

July 16, 2023  
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

**GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Liturgist**  
**Liturgist**

**PRELUDE**

**The Dillsburg Brass**

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Based on book of Ruth)

Liturgist: Here in this place, there are no foreigners,  
for all are welcome in God's house.

**All:** *Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,  
for love is the language of faith.*

Liturgist: Here in our lives, there are no divisions,  
for God dwells in each of us.

**All:** *Come, let us worship in unity and love.*

**HYMN**

*From All that Dwells Below the Skies*

**Bulletin Insert**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Preacher: The Divine Gardener cannot sow seeds of justice and peace  
where there is nothing but hearts of dry, hard rocks.  
Let us take a moment to confess our hard-heartedness, first in silence.

(Silence for personal confession)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Preacher: Please join me now, in our community Prayer of Confession.

**All people:** *God of steadfast love,  
we confess that our hearts need tilling  
and the digging out of the deeply rooted sins  
that crowd out seedlings planted with divine compassion.*

Preacher: Now let us open ourselves to new life, growing with decency!

**All people:** *God of steadfast love,  
you change angry, bitter tears of remorseful hearts  
with raindrops of mercy,*

Preacher: Now let us germinate a new life, growing with uprightness!

**All people:** *God of steadfast love,  
you change the cold shame of contrite hearts  
with sunrays of blessed forgiveness,*

Preacher: Now let us sprout a new life, growing with integrity!

**All people:** *God of steadfast love,  
you change the stony edges of repentant hearts*

*into landscapes of humility,*

Preacher: Now let us branch out into new life, growing with generosity!

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Preacher: Hear the Good News!  
The Divine Gardener,  
tends to us with patient, steadfast love.  
In Christ, this faithful love is planted in *our* hearts.  
Gathered as Christ's community of believers,  
this family of faith,  
with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us,  
can now produce forgiveness for each other, as we are forgiven.

*All people: Thanks be to God, for the opportunity  
and ability to grow in love anew!*

### PRAISE HYMN

*Gloria Patri*

Hymnal, #493

### PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Liturgist: Since we have peace with God through Jesus Christ, by the power of  
the Spirit, let us stand and share peace with one another.

*(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)*

### JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

### HYMN

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Hymnal, #21

### OLD TESTAMENT READING – Ruth 3:1-4:17

Liturgist

### EPISTLE READING – Romans 8:1-11

Liturgist

### GOSPEL READING – Matthew 13:1-9, 17-23

Ms. Spring Davidson

### PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "sins") Ms. Spring Davidson

*All: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.*

### SPECIAL MUSIC

The Dillsburg Brass

*(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)*

### OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: God's blessings continually rain down upon us. Sometimes we recognize  
them as blessings, and sometimes we don't. But God's presence is with

us in either case. Today we pause to remember the many times God has  
been with us along the way and has provided for our needs. Then, through  
the ministry and outreach of this faith community, we join in the work of  
God to provide for the needs of the larger world. In this time we commit  
to give of our time, talent, and money and let us offer all we promise to  
God with a song of praise and prayer of gratitude.

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

### DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Hymnal, #258

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God, all creatures here below.*

*Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*All people: All good gifts come from you, Lord, and from your blessing, we bring  
this offering with humble gratitude. Help us to use it for the furtherance  
of your purpose in this place, and for the benefit of those, both near and  
far, in need. Amen.*

### HYMN

*We Plow the Fields and Scatter*

Bulletin Insert

### BENEDICTION

Preacher: God has placed the seed of love and forgiveness in your heart.  
Go into God's world with joy,  
telling of the good news of God's abundant,  
lavish love for all creation.  
Go to be a witness to all the miraculous possibilities for hope and peace.

*All people: Amen.*

### POSTLUDE

The Dillsburg Brass

# We Plow the Fields and Scatter

17

*Wir pflugen*, M. Claudius, 1782; tr. Jane Montgomery-Campbell, 1861

WIR PFLUGEN, 7.6.7.6.7.6.7.6 with refrain

J. A. P. Schulz, 1800;  
harmonized by J. B. Dykes, 1861

1. We plow the fields and scat-ter the good seed on the land, but it is  
2. He on - ly is the Mak - er of all things near and far; he paints the  
3. We thank Thee, then, O Fa - ther, for all things bright and good, the seed-time

1. fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand; he sends the snow in  
2. way - side flow - er, he lights the eve - ning star; the winds and waves o -  
3. and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food; ac - cept the gifts we

1. win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain, the breez - es and the sun - shine, and  
2. bey him, by him the birds are fed; much more to us, his chil - dren, he  
3. of - fer, for all thy love im - parts, and what thou most de - sir - est, our

*Refrain*

1. soft re - fresh - ing rain.  
2. gives our dai - ly bread.  
3. hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.) } All good gifts a - round us are sent from heaven a -

bove; then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.

# 327 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

(Psalm 117)

*Unison*

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -  
2 In ev - ery land be - gin the song; to ev - ery land the strains be -  
3 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal truth at - tends thy

*Harmony* *Unison*

rise: Let the Re - deem - er's  
long: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! In cheer - ful sound all  
word: Thy praise shall sound from

name be sung through ev - ery land, in ev - ery tongue.  
voic - es raise and fill the world with joy - ful praise.  
shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

*Harmony*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Because Psalm 117 contains only two verses, Watts's paraphrase had only two stanzas. Most later hymnals have created or borrowed additional stanzas, like the one included here, to enlarge the hymn. Perhaps the best solution is found by adding Alleluias, as this tune invites.