


1 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be,
 2 Like a moth - er you en - fold me, hold my life with - in your own,
 3 Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me the dis - cern - ing eye,
 4 Friend and lov - er, in your close - ness I am known and held and blessed:
 5 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be,



you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.
 feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.
 hoist me up up - on your shoul - der, let me see the world from high.
 in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.
 you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.

A gift to the whole church, the Holy Spirit is also experienced by individuals in meaningful ways such as those described in this reflective (and structurally circular) consideration of the relational aspects of the Spirit. The tune may have originated in a folk melody.

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1986

OMNI DIE (Corner)

MUSIC: Corner's *Gross Catholisch Gesangbuch*, 1631; arr. William Smith Rockstro, 19th cent.

8.7.8.7

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References

- Today's worship liturgy (except for the Confession liturgy and Invitation to the Offering) was written by Nancy C. Townley for Ministry Matters: Worship Connection: July 23, 2023. It was accessed and adapted for today's worship service by Pastor Laura Baker on Wednesday, July 5, 2023. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/8282/worship-connection-july-23-2023>.
- The Confession liturgy was written by Beth Merrill Neel, blogger and creator of Ho Id Fast to What is Good: A Blog and Some Art and Some Liturgy. <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/>. The material was accessed and adapted for today's service by Pastor Baker on Wednesday, July 5, 2023.

July 23, 2023
 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carol Wagner

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Carol Wagner

PRELUDE

Mr. Cody Eckenrode

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Weeds and seeds, growing together.

All: *Each will influence the other.*

Liturgist: What will we learn from the weeds?

All: *Trials and tribulations, choices that have not always worked out. Weeds can teach us about perseverance —consider the tough dandelion plant pushing its way up through the pavement — for some it's just a weed, but for others there are lessons to be learned.*

Liturgist: What will be gained from seeds?

All: *Inside each one of us is a special person, waiting to be nurtured to wholeness. Each seed is unique; each has its own gifts to offer.*

Liturgist: In God's garden, God's love extends to both – asking both to consider what each has to offer to a hurting world.

All: *Lord, help us to be good seeds, bearing fruits of kindness, justice, and compassion. Keep us mindful of those for whom life has been difficult and yet they persist in trying to make each day better. Be in our hearts, O Lord, and in our lives. Amen.*

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist: Let us continue in prayer.

All: *God of surprises, we come here from the weariness of the week, from various triumphs, from fears and doubts. Open our hearts to receive your surprising message of hope for all people, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.*

HYMN

Loving Spirit

Bulletin, Page 4

CALL TO CONFESSION

Preacher: Each week as a community we set aside time to admit our sin. For some, sin is hurting someone else. For others, sin is creating a rift between people. Sin may be our self-induced separation from God. However we understand sin, let us offer to God our confession of sin, first in silent prayer.

(Silence for personal confession)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Preacher: Let us continue now, offering a corporate prayer of confession as printed.

All: *O Holy God, we know we have fallen short.
We turn our backs when we could embrace.
We remain silent when we could speak.
We speak when we could listen.
We close the door when we could fling it wide open.
We judge when we could seek understanding.
We cling when we could give.
Forgive us, O God, and help us to continue to grow
into the people you created us to be,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Preacher: Sisters and brothers in Christ, good news comes to us! God, who is faithful and just, who cherishes us as we are, seeks restoration and healing for the broken places in our lives. God forgives and loves us unconditionally. Receive God's good news. Receive healing and be transformed!

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"

Carol Wagner

HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Bulletin Insert

OLD TESTAMENT READING – 1 Samuel 1:1-20

Carol Wagner

EPISTLE READING – Romans 8:12-25

Carol Wagner

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Rev. Dr. Christopher Anderson

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Christopher Anderson

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "sins")

Rev. Anderson

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

Mr. Cody Eckenrode

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

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: God is the giver of all good things, the one who fashioned each of us with unique gifts that together make the Body of Christ whole. In gratitude for all we have received, let us offer our lives back to God — and re-commit ourselves to sharing our time, our skills, our money and in so doing, we are saying "yes" to God's invitation to join in God's kingdom building work here on earth – as it is in heaven. Let us dedicate all we are committed to giving with a song and a prayer of dedication.

(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: *Lord, we present the offering of ourselves and commit ourselves to giving back a portion of time, talent, and many - of the many blessings you have poured into our lives. Make us people who are unafraid to proclaim your healing, justice, and love for all people. Help us to use these gifts to bring hope and comfort to all those in need. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.*

HYMN

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Bulletin Insert

BENEDICTION

Preacher: It is now time to go out and into God's world!
Carry with you, messages of hope to all.
As we have been blessed, may we bring blessings to all
in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: *Amen.*

POSTLUDE

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 716

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (G)
F Dm B^b

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

(D) (Bm)
F Dm

end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

(G) (D) (A)
B^b F C

cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

(Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)
Dm Am Dm B^b C F

to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,

(Bm) (G) (D)
Dm B^b F

rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP

560 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1. What a fel - low - ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
2. O how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
last - ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing,
Lean - ing on Je - sus

lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms; lean -
lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on

ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

WORDS: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887
MUSIC: Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

SHOWALTER
10 9.10 9 w. refrain