

*spread the love we have received to the world around us.
Amen.*

HYMN *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* **Chalice, #433**

BENEDICTION (Based on Romans 13:8-15 and Matthew 18:15-20)

Pastor: Go out in love, reconciled to one another in Christ.
Lay aside the works of darkness
and put on the armor of light.
Live honorably,
fulfilling the law through love for all.

*All people: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
.....In the name of Christ. Amen.*

POSTLUDE

References

The liturgy today (except for the benediction) was written by Nancy C. Townley for Ministry Matters:
WORSHIP CONNECTION: SEPTEMBER 10, 2023. The material was accessed August 1, 2023.
<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/8385/worship-connection-september-6-2020>

September 10, 2023
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Give us wisdom to perceive you, intelligence to understand you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. —attributed to ST. BENEDICT (480–543)

**GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Pastor Laura Baker

PRELUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come out of the darkness of despair into the brightness of
God's transforming love.

Congregation: We praise God for God's presence with us!

Pastor: Prepare your hearts and spirits to receive God's mercy and
healing.

Congregation: We thank God for God's mercy toward us.

Pastor: Come, let us praise and worship God who is always with us.

Congregation: Thanks be to God at all times and in all places.

OPENING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Using "sins")

*All people: Gracious God, we come this day seeking courage and hope
for the future. Our world is in such peril. Heal these wounds
and quiet the words of war. Help us to be those who bring
peace in our families and communities. Banish the
darkness of doubt and fear; anoint us with your light and
love that we may spread the good news of your mercy to
everyone. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught
us to pray: "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.

HYMN *Seek Ye, First* **Chalice, #354**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Confident of God’s steadfast love for us, let us confess.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: Forgiving and loving God, our hearts are filled today with pain and concern for the future of humankind. Words of anger assail our airways — we cannot escape from the threats being thrown about. In our fear, we cry “Where are you, O Lord?” We wander around in the darkness of the spirit, seeking light and hope. Forgive us when we forget that you are always with us, through times of peace and times of war. Heal our souls. Help us to reach out to others with the assurance of your love and presence, for we ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: God hears our prayers and our cries. God leads us out of the darkness of the past into the bright promise of today. We are called to stand strong and confident in God’s love.

All people: God’s love, which began before creation, flows in and through us this day! We rejoice and will work creatively at being transformed more and more into Christ’s loving and hopeful likeness. Alleluia! Amen.

PRAISE HYMN *Gloria Patri* **Red Hymnal, #493**

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor: God’s forgiveness and transforming love gives us great peace. Let us Jesus’ words of peace to one another: “Peace be with you...”

Congregation: “And, also with you.”

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

JESUS SAID, “LET THE CHILDREN COME”

HYMN *Draw Us In the Spirit’s Tether* **Chalice, #392**

OLD TESTAMENT READING – 1 Samuel 8:10-22

EPISTLE READING - Romans 13:8-14

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 18:15-20

SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER **Rev. Laura Baker**

PASTORAL PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC *“A New Song”* **Chancel Choir**

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

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: Because God has so richly blessed us, let us receive our morning offering in gratitude for all God has done, is doing, and will do in the future. Our Gratitude Offering is accompanied with the Doxology and a Prayer of Dedication.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

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 (Based on Romans 13:8-14)

All people: Generous God, through Jesus, you have shown us what it means to love and you’ve called us to follow him by being obedient to his living example—to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, to offer our lives and our resources in your service. Accept the gifts we bring today. May they help to