

THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

Welcome and Greeting in Jesus' Name

***Opening (Stand) # "Come, Thou Almighty King"**

***Call to Worship (Stand)**

Come to God, the giver of life,
For the Lord knows you better than you know yourself.

We come to the One who knows us completely.

May God lead us in the everlasting way.

The Lord's hand is upon you,
To guide and teach you, and to hold you fast!

We come to the One who is in all and through all.

May the love of Christ Jesus shine brightly within us.

Hope in the Lord, O children of God,
For the Holy Spirit testifies that we are joint heirs with Christ.

We hope in the Holy One, the giver of freedom,

Whose glory will redeem all of our sufferings.

†Timothy Matthew Slemmons, "Lightening from the East: Liturgical Elements for Reformed Worship, Year A." ©2014. Cascade Books, Eugene, OR. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

***Opening Prayer (Stand)**

Song of Faith "Goodness of God" **Worship Team**

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Ashley Smith

The First Reading Genesis 28:10-19a

The Second Reading Romans 8:12-23

***The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (Stand)** Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

***Responsorial (Stand)** "Blessed Assurance"

***Greeting and Sharing Peace with Family and Neighbors (Stand)**

Children's Sermon (Kids 3rd Grade and Younger can walk to Children's Church)

Announcements & Prayers of the Community Prayer – 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

Presentation of Tithes, Gifts, and Donations - Worshipers are invited to give their tithes, gifts, and offerings to the Lord.

Prayer of Dedication – Our heavenly Father, there is such resistance to your Word in the world, but we trust in your Son and your coming kingdom to bring home the glorious harvest of the righteous. Thus, we offer these gifts as our witness and our sure hope that, whatever adversity arises, your good seed will indeed bear good fruit, and your chosen will be glorified like the sun at the end of the age. May our gifts and our labors be joined to your redeeming work, for it is in the name of Jesus Christ that we would seek and serve for the sake of your glory.



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Offertory Special

A Prayer of Illumination & The Message "Conquering the What Ifs"
Reverend Art Campbell, Retired American Baptist Clergy

WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH & SERVICE

Invitation to Faith and Fellowship – If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God's forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to be a follower of Jesus in the waters of baptism or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

***Closing Hymn (Stand) # "Jesus, Name Above All Names"** Worship Team

***Spoken Benediction**

***Postlude** Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

HOW TO BECOME A FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS

GOOD NEWS! God loves you and wants to rescue all people from the consequences of evil. The Bible teaches the way to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ:

1. **ADMIT** – Admit to God you have done wrong things (sinned) which have hurt God and others. Apologize to God and turn away from harmful behavior and start doing good things (See Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19).
2. **BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD** – Accept and trust that Jesus is God's one and only Son who died on the cross in your place and give God the credit for raising Jesus from the dead (See Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31a; John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:6).
3. **CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD** – Make a religious commitment to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus by trusting Him to be your Rescuer and Redeemer (Savior) and Ultimate Leader (Lord). (See Romans 10:9 and 10; Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
4. **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO THE JESUS WAY** - Tell your family and friends about your new trust in Jesus Christ by coming to the front of the Sanctuary at the end of a worship service to publicly share your decision to be a follower of Jesus (Christian).

HOW TO JOIN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COME FORWARD – Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and accepting the Baptist principles, practices, and the covenant of this church, may join this Christian church. Persons interested in affiliating should speak with the Pastor, Moderator, or come forward at a meeting of the congregation. A person may join by Believer's Baptism, Letter of Transfer from a previous Christian church with prior baptism, or a Satisfactory Statement of Christian Faith.



OUR MISSION – We love God and we love people by sharing the Good News of God's forgiving, renewing love in Jesus Christ by word and deed to improve the lives of neighbors. West Side Baptist Church is an independent, autonomous Christian church partnering for mission support with like-minded people of faith in our City, County, State, Nation and World.



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