

WORSHIP SERVICE

JULY 26, 2026, 9:00AM

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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PRELUDE

Jesus Lover of My Soul

Charles Wesley

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

Leader: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.** (Let us pray.)

Leader: God of our parents, and our God:

**People: we come to this place to worship and praise You.**

Leader: We come because of a deep longing and aching for  
Your presence in our lives.

**People: We come as we are;**

Leader: with joys and sorrows,

**People: with successes and failures,**

Leader: wanting to know You and be known by You,

**People: wanting to bridge the distance that we have  
allowed to grow between us.**

Leader: O Lord, draw close to us now.

**People: Draw closer to us than our own breathing.**

Leader: Look upon our brokenness—

**People: and make us whole.**

Leader: See into the darkness of our lives—

**People: and make us light.**

Leader: Hear the silent confessions of our hearts—

**People: and extend to us Your forgiveness...**

*(Silence)*

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

**All: Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Everyone in Christ becomes a new creation!

**People: The old has passed away, everything has become new!**

Leader: Siblings in Christ, believe in the good news: through Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**People: Alleluia! Amen!**

#### PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you**

#### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

**Adelaide Margaret Cabral**

daughter of Lily Colahan and Jason Cabral

**Ella Blake Erickson**

daughter of Brianna and Bobby Erickson

#### VOWS OF THE PARENTS/GODPARENTS

##### VOW OF THE CONGREGATION

Deacon: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the ones about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

**People: We promise our love, support, and care for Adelaide and Ella.**

#### BAPTISM

\*UNISON WELCOME (please stand)

**Adelaide and Ella: We the community of The Congregational Church welcome you into our family, which is called the body of Christ. We rejoice in your presence among us, and the presence of your family. As you grow, we will tell you about this moment that we**

**have shared with you, and we will tell you about God's love that has been poured out on you. As you grow, we pray that you will tell us about God's love as it touches you; so together we may reach toward the Kingdom of God. Welcome!**

*Children Pre-K – 4<sup>th</sup> grade recess to the combined classroom*

\*HYMN (*page 9*)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter Smith

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 10:25-37

<sup>25</sup> An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.<sup>[a]</sup> “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” <sup>27</sup> He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

**Minister:** The Word of God for the people of God.

**All:** **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Who is my neighbor?”

Alex Werner

SERMON RESPONSE

Gratitude

Brandon Lake

Ellie Parkhill, soloist

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC

As The Deer

Martin Nystrom

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As a congregation, we pray together – through word, silence, and  
The Lord’s Prayer (sins)

\*HYMN (*page 10*)

Great is Thy Faithfulness

William Runyan/Thomas Chisholm

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Amen

Jester Hairston/arr. Nerva Altino

\*Congregation please stand.

Thank you to Nancy Gilbert and Julia Portale for hosting this morning’s summer fellowship. Please join us for refreshments after the service on the front walk, or in Smith Hall if weather requires.

The Disciples Deck Question:  
Card 47: "Do you want to be made well?"

COLLECTION OF OFFERING

Please place your tithes and offerings in the plates provided  
as you enter or leave this morning.

We thank God for beautiful flowers and are grateful to God's servants for sharing their gifts with us. The flowers displayed this month have been arranged by Juliet Howe, Alyssa Resnick and Ré Telep.

ARE YOU VISITING OUR CHURCH TODAY?

Welcome, and thank you for worshipping with us! If you have questions about our church or wish to join us for our next new member class, please contact Anna Rogers at (203) 274-0097 or [welcoming@godsacre.org](mailto:welcoming@godsacre.org).

DO YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

If you have a prayer request, please email Kelly Antonson at [kelly@godsacre.org](mailto:kelly@godsacre.org) or Barb Clayton at [barb@godsacre.org](mailto:barb@godsacre.org).

## NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

### CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

The church office will be closed on Fridays from June through August. For pastoral care needs, contact (203)966-2651 x103.

### GIVING THIS SUMMER

We are grateful for your generous pledges as they are essential to the operation of our church. While we know many families will be traveling this summer, we encourage you to stay current on your pledge commitment so that we may be best prepared for our fall offerings.

### JOIN OUR TEAM: PSGA LEAD TEACHER NEEDED

The Preschool on God's Acre is seeking a Lead Classroom Teacher for our 3 Day 2s Classroom, which meets M/W/F from 8:45-11:45am. To learn more about this opportunity, please reach out to Marnie Miller and Kate Stimpson at [directors@psganc.org](mailto:directors@psganc.org).

### JULY PLATE OFFERING

The July plate offering will go to the Partnership to End Human Trafficking (PEHT). PEHT provides survivors of trafficking with a pathway toward healing and independence through community outreach, residential recovery, and economic empowerment. To learn more, contact Beth Picard at [bpicard44@gmail.com](mailto:bpicard44@gmail.com).

### ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Please pardon our appearance as our Building & Grounds Committee oversees a roof replacement project this July. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

### SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL OFFERINGS

Throughout the summer, nursery care will be available during the 9:00am worship service for children through age 3. Children ages 4 through 4th grade are invited to a combined Church School class for most of the summer, especially for those who may not yet enjoy the outdoor service. Please note that no Church School classes will be held on August 2 or August 9; on those Sundays, children are warmly invited to join us for our abbreviated garden worship service.

### SUMMER FELLOWSHIP – AUGUST HOSTS NEEDED

If you would like to host fellowship time following the 9:00am Garden Worship Service, please sign-up during fellowship today or email Laurel Carr at [laurel@godsacre.org](mailto:laurel@godsacre.org). The church provides tables and paper goods; hosts are asked to provide refreshments.

### SUMMER WORSHIP ON GOD'S ACRE – 9:00AM GARDEN SERVICE

From June 21 through September 6, join us for one Sunday worship service at 9:00am. During the summer, we'll gather in the Memorial Garden as weather allows and move indoors if needed. Whether you're at home or traveling, you can also worship with us each week through God's Acre On the Go podcast and our Sunday livestream.

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP OPEN PLAY MAHJONG

Ladies, mark your calendars for **our last summer Mahjong session this Wednesday, July 29 from 10:00am-12:00pm** enjoy fellowship, and fun in the Parlor. All players with basic familiarity with Mahjong are welcome. Please bring a set if you have one. No RSVP is required, but feel free to respond to the weekly email if you plan to attend.

### YOUTH MINISTRIES SUMMER ON GOD'S ACRE SIGNUP

While our regular Youth Group program is on summer break, we invite all youth in grades K–8 to join us for fun, faith-filled summer events! Stay connected with friends, make new ones, or



experience Youth Group for the first time before we resume this fall. The Mystic Day Trip has a suggested \$50 contribution; all other events are free. Register using the QR code or contact Greer Lyle at [greer@godsacre.org](mailto:greer@godsacre.org) for more information.

**July 26, Calf Pasture Beach & Mini Golf, 10:00am-2:00pm  
(half-day trip)**

**August 23, Mystic Day Trip, 10:00am-8:00pm, Full Day Trip**

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou dwell - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,  
 all praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, there is no  
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and  
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thy own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-  
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in  
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been thou for-ev-er wilt be.  
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love.  
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed — great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!



PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

*Senior Minister*

Kelly Antonson

*Associate Minister of Children, Youth  
& Families*

Alex Werner

*Collegiate Preaching Fellow*

Nerva Altino

*Director of Music Ministries*

Khanisha Moore, soprano

*Soloist*

Leigh Engen

*AV Tech Leader*

DEACON

Hoyt Davidson

USHERS

Hal Holappa & Teri Reed

We are a welcoming, inclusive and compassionate church community where difference and diversity are valued. We gather to promote the love and knowledge of the God revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Redeemer and Friend, and welcome all to participate in the life of our church regardless of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, ability, marital status, or sexual orientation.

We invite you to make an offering today.

