

## Worship Service on Sunday, July 31, 2022

**Welcome and Greeting** God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

**Question of the Day** They need pens in which color? a) black b) green c) blue d) red

**\*Hymn** “Here I Am to Worship”

### **\*Call to Worship**

God is calling us to come together.

**O give thanks to God, for God is good;**

**God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

God fills the hungry with good things.

**Our thirsting souls are filled to overflowing.**

God leads us to a new identity, to new life.

**We seek renewal in the image of our Creator.**

### **\*Prayer of Invocation**

**Compassionate God, whose riches have been poured out among us in unrecognized abundance, help us today to reexamine our stewardship over the things and the relationships you have entrusted to us. Through your Spirit confront our greed, lest it destroy us and rob our sisters and brothers of the good you intend for them. Amen.**

### **Psalm 107:1-9, 33-43 *The Message***

Oh, thank GOD – he’s so good! His love never runs out.

All of you set free by GOD, tell the world! Tell how he freed you from oppression,  
then rounded you up from all over the place,  
from the four winds, from the seven seas.

Some of you wandered for years in the desert, looking but not finding  
a good place to live, half-starved and parched with thirst,  
staggering and stumbling, on the brink of exhaustion.

Then, in your desperate condition, you called out to GOD.

He got you out in the nick of time;

He put your feet on a wonderful road  
that took you straight to a good place to live.

So thank GOD for his marvelous love,  
for his miracle mercy to the children he loves.

He poured great draughts of water down parched throats;  
the starved and hungry got plenty to eat. . . .

GOD turned rivers into wasteland, springs of water into sunbaked mud;  
luscious orchards became alkali flats  
because of the evil of the people who lived there.

Then he changed wasteland into fresh pools of water,  
and earth into springs of water,

brought in the hungry and settled them there;  
they moved in – what a great place to live!

They sowed the fields, they planted vineyards, they reaped a bountiful harvest.

He blessed them and they prospered greatly; their herds of cattle never decreased.

But abuse and evil and trouble declined

as he heaped scorn on princes and sent them away.

He gave the poor a safe place to live,

treated their clans like well-cared-for sheep.

Good people see this and are glad;  
bad people are speechless, stopped in their tracks.  
If you are really wise, you'll think this over –  
it's time you appreciated GOD's deep love.

**Luke 12:13-21 New Revised Standard Version**

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

**Response:** *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

**Hymn** "On Eagle's Wings" (*chorus only*)

**Time of Prayer**

**How Is It With Your Soul?**

**Call to Confession**

What does God see within us and among us that we do not see? Do you suppose that God is disappointed? Frustrated? Angry? What defenses have we created to keep God out of our lives? How have we turned away from the life God intends for us? Now is the moment to come out of hiding, for God already knows where we are.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, our lives are far from holy. The thoughts we have held in secret have erupted into hurtful words and deeds. We have not avoided lies and slander. We have given in to pessimism and suspicion. We resent people whose lives seem easier than our own. We hate the thought of passing on to those less worthy the things we have worked so hard to possess. O God, we need your wisdom in order to live peacefully within ourselves.**

*Time of Silent Prayer*

**Assurance**

God invites all of us to accept forgiveness and renewal. God delivers us from the folly of self-preoccupation to joyous involvement in our Creator's wonderful works. And so we join together with Jesus in praying:

**The Lord's 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

**Answer to the Question of the Day**

**Time of Offering** *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

**\*Offering Prayer**

**Help us, O God, to give enough of ourselves and our substance every day that we will not be tempted to embrace the idolatry of greed. Before all our attachments require "larger**

**barns,” help us to reflect on how they might better be used by others than stored by us.  
Thank you for the abundant opportunity to share. Amen.**

**\*Song of Offering “Give Thanks”**

**Message “Satisfies” Rev. Joyce Rich**

**\*Commission and Blessing**

God has made us rich in so many ways.

Now let us go out to find new ways to be rich toward God.

**We will show our thanks for God’s steadfast love.**

We look to God for healing and renewed strength.

**We rejoice in the opportunities God gives us.**

**We seek to walk where God leads us.**

Amen. **And Amen.**

**\*Hymn “Shout to the North”**

**Announcements**

**Read For Next Week:** Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **Gathered by Love: Worship Resources for Year C**, Lavon Bayler © 1994 United Church Press.*