

**Date: August 27, 2023**  
**Season of the Holy Spirit**

**Prayer of Preparation**

Carmella Paterson

*My beloved, who do you say that I am? Do you believe that I AM the Pure Lamb? Are you blinded or do you truly see that you could become an image of Me? Who do you really think I am, Dear one? Do you think when I died my work was done? Do you believe you are My hands and My feet, and that I guide you from Heaven's Holy Seat? If you truly know my love belongs to you it will affect what you think, say, and do. For if you truly love Me and follow my ways, you'll find My Peace will bless your days. Who Am I to you? I really want to know. Do you know I lift you when you are low? Can you imagine the expanse of my love that spans eternity, earth to heav'n above? I AM the God who willed you to be here before anything that ever came to being; My child, I AM yours, you are Mine. I've removed the scales and you are seeing. Now – Who do you say that I AM? Do you now believe I AM the Pure Lamb?*

**Gathering in the Presence of God**

*\*Please stand as able, in body or in spirit*

**Gathering Music**

*Prelude, Op. 28, No. 15*

Frédéric Chopin

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship** (responsively)

Liturgist

Family of God, as we gather today, Jesus asks us, “Who do you say that I am?”

You are our Messiah, the Son of the living God!

Family of God, as we gather today, the Holy Spirit asks us, “Who do you say that I am?”

You are our Comforter, Advocate, and Sustainer!

Family of God, as we gather today, the Triune God asks us, "Who do you say that I am?"

You are Love that creates, saves, and enfolds us into the family of God! May we be instruments of Love in all that we are and all that we do. Amen.

\*Hymn

*Spirit, Open My Heart*

GTG 692

**Confessing Our Separation from God** (unison)

Liturgist

We confess our struggle to be transformed into disciples, God of mystery. The desires of the world would shape us into people you would not recognize. The demands of our society pull us away from your heart. Our culture values the rich, the powerful, and the successful yet, you are the champion of the weak, the poor, the outcast, and the oppressed. Forgive us, Merciful God, when we doubt and questioned ourselves who Jesus is. Reawaken us with your voice that calls us to service; revive our weary hearts with your vision of creation; refresh our fatigued spirits that we might boldly proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and go forth to serve your people, in Christ's name.

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

*Jesus, Draw Me Close*

Rick Founds

Jesus, draw me close; Closer, Lord, to You.

Let the world around me fade away.

Jesus, draw me close;

Closer, Lord, to You.

For I desire to worship and obey.

**\*Passing the Peace of Christ**

**We Hear God's Word**

**Prayer of Illumination**

Liturgist

**Anthem** *A New World* Jason Robert Brown

**Gospel Lesson** Matthew 15:21-28 Liturgist  
*Source: New International Version (NIV)*

**Reflection** Re-centering – But, Who Do You Say That I Am

### **We Respond to God's Word**

**\*Affirmation of Faith** *I Believe in Jesus* Marc Nelson

**Joys and Hopes of the People of God &  
The Lord's Prayer**

**Offertory** *Lord I Want to be a Christian* Traditional

### **The Act of Gratitude**

**\*Doxology: An Expression of Faith to God** GTG 606  
*Tune: Old Hundredth*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving** (unison) Liturgist  
God of all creation, as we offer our gifts to you this day, we remember the questions Jesus put to his disciples, "Who do people say that I am? But who do you say that I am?" We pray that we might be ready to answer with our lips, but also with our lives and with our gifts: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!" Amen.

**\*Hymn** *Will You Come and Follow Me* GTG 726  
*The Summons*

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

*When the Saints Go Marching In*

Traditional

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Next Week's Liturgist: Deb Norton

**WORSHIP TEAM**

Rev. Eddie Jusino

Liturgist Charlotte Jacobs

Ushers: Elsie and Harry Marshall

Music: David Libby

Soloist: Tina Marie Casamento

A/V Tech: Melissa Schrock and Blue Jade

### ***WHERE'S EDDIE?***

Pastor Eddie will have hand surgery on August 30 and will be at home recovering through September 12. Rev. Gerald Egger will lead the September 3 Communion Sunday and Rev. Marjorie Egger will handle the following Sunday, September 10. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Rev. Charles Gilmore at 917-940-5223

### **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 @ 10am – SUNDAY SERVICE with COMMUNION.** Stay for Fellowship, Stay for Joy: Where Faith and Friendship Flourish! Thank you in advance for participating in the ministry of Hospitality/ Fellowship.....a Biblical tradition that we want to continue honoring. The Fellowship Team

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 @ 1pm – 3pm – ICE CREAM ON US!** Join us for the annual ice cream social. Chocolate, Vanilla, Salted Caramel Crunch, sprinkles and MORE!

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 – NOVEMBER 8 @ 10am - Adult Ed Bible Study** returns with Alan Keohane's "Picturing Scripture", an engaging online Bible Study.

### ***REMEMBER IN PRAYER***

With deep affection, we remember our dear friend and longtime member, **Cliff Hilderley**, who passed away on August 3, 2023. We haven't had the pleasure of his company since Covid closed the church, but he was a faithful member of the weekly conference call group of 8, that listened to the WPC Sunday services together by phone throughout the 14 months of the pandemic. He was a brilliant and influential lawyer, DC lobbyist, engineer and administrator. In retirement, he was active in Rehoboth Beach life and was instrumental in the preservation of WPC green space as protected parking for our members. WPC was a beneficiary of his lifetime

of experience and knowledge, and he had many, many friends among us. Cliff's knowledge of the Bible was greatly admired at Bible Study. We send prayers to his family; may the Holy Spirit comfort them in their grief. We give thanks to Our Lord with the assurance of Cliff's translation to perfection in his heavenly home, reunited with his beloved wife, Donna. *Absent from the body; present with the Lord.*

**Melinda Sledd**, daughter of **Sarah Ortolani**, had hip surgery on Thursday, 8/24. May our faithful and merciful Lord guide her medical providers to restore Melinda to full function and activity. We embrace Melinda, Sarah and Nancy in loving prayer and support.

Our beloved Pastor Eddie will undergo hand surgery on 8/30. May our omnipotent Lord guide the surgeon, and instill wisdom and skill. We pray that Pastor's recovery will be steady and complete, as we look forward to his return. In the meantime, we hold Pastor and Pam in our hearts covering them in loving prayer.

*Surgery:* **Betty Jean Schwarz**, hand surgery  
**Rev. William T. Cocco**, hip surgery

*Illness::* **Bill Hrin, Darlene Griffin, Dee Austin**  
**Pastor Lisa Salita**, Georgetown Presbyterian Church  
**Carol Geiger** (Charlotte Jacobs' cousin)  
**Hal Casey** (Mable Granke's son-in-law)  
**Jeff Dunn** (Genie Hindall's brother)  
**John Weiss** (Sid Simon's friend)  
**Norman & Judy Moore**  
**Liam Green** (grandson of Diana Green)



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# DONATION DRIVE

## Aug. 20-Sept. 10

Items requested but not limited to:

### Non-food:

paper towels  
toilet paper  
dish/laundry detergent  
hand soap  
travel-size  
personal care items

### Food:

peanut butter  
jelly  
egg noodles  
canned tuna  
canned spaghetti  
(pull-off tabs, if possible)

