

**Date: September 3, 2023**  
**Season of the Holy Spirit**  
**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Prayer of Preparation**

*God, help us serve you – first, last, and always.  
Help us love without limit – be it enemy, friend or stranger.  
For it is in serving and loving that we carry our crosses  
and become true disciples of Christ. Amen.*

**Gathering in the Presence of God**

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

**Gathering Music**      *Shall We Gather at the River*      Robert Lowry

**Welcome**

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

Come, let us search together for our authentic lives.

**How will we ever find our own lives?**

Come, let us search together for our authentic lives.

**Must we be willing to lose our very own lives?**

Come, let us rejoice as we learn from Jesus our teacher.

**That's it. When we are lost in Christ, we have found our very own lives.**

**\*Hymn**      *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said* (vss. 1, 3, 4)      GTG 718

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

God of mercy, we confess that we set our minds on the wrong things. When we try to think of the divine, we imagine pearly gates and hovering angels. Or we fantasize about a world of peace and beauty. But Jesus Christ teaches

us that if any of us wants to become his follower, we need to quiet wishful thinking, confront our fears, and follow him into the world as it actually is. Our divine calling is selfless service. Turn our thinking inside out. Help us, O God, to have the mind of Christ. Amen.

**\*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**

*From a Distance*

Julie Gold

Soloist – Tina Marie Casamento

**Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 16:21-28

Liturgist

*Source: NRSV*

**Reflection**

Godly Point of View

Rev. Jerry Egger

**We Respond to God's Word**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*I Believe in Jesus*

Marc Nelson

**Joys and Hopes of the People of God**

**Offertory**                      *Lord, I Want To Be A Christian*  
**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

Loving God, when we stumble in our discipleship you do not give up on us, but instead invite us again to follow you. We recommit ourselves this day, giving these gifts as a symbol of our resolve to give ourselves entirely to you. Take our offerings, we pray, to relieve the suffering of your people. May these offerings be a means through which others find reasons to rejoice in life abundant and to praise you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

### **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Hymn of Invitation**                      *Sanctuary*

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;  
with Thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Lord's Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

It is right to give thanks and praise...Great is the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

\*                      \*                      \*

May we freely lose our lives and be saved through the One who taught us to say when we pray ... "Our Father..."

## **The Words of Institution**

### **Sharing the Bread & the Cup**

#### **Communion Prayer** (unison)

We give you thanks, O God, for this community of faith. Though we are profoundly human in our journeying together, we do find moments of clarity of the godly point of view. We give thanks for times of honest encounters that enlarge our lives. We give thanks for others' prayers that accompany our days. We give thanks for shared laughter and tears, the signs of true community. Thanks be to you, O God. Amen.

### **We Follow God's Word into the World**

**\*Hymn**                      *Will You Come and Follow Me* (vss. 1, 3, 5)                      GTG 726

### **Benediction**

**Postlude**                      *Where Could I Go But to the Lord?*                      J.B. Coates

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Next Week's Liturgist: Clare McDonald

Thank you to Phil Franz for today's communion bread

## **WORSHIP TEAM**

Rev. Jerry Egger

Liturgist Deb Norton

Ushers: John Rotach and John Still

Music: David Libby

Soloist: Tina Marie Casamento

A/V Tech: Melissa Schrock and Blue Jade

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

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

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Rev. Jerry Egger** is a second-career pastor ordained in 2006 after earning an M.Div. at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Jerry served as installed Presbyterian solo pastor for 6 years in Rensselaer, Indiana, his home state. After he and his wife, Rev. Marjorie Egger, retired to Millville, DE, Jerry was contracted as interim pastor for Ocean View and Georgetown Presbyterian churches. Among his interests is handbell playing with Capital Ringers.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 @ 10am – SUNDAY SERVICE** - 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***

**Don Jacobs** had emergency surgery on Tuesday, 8/29 for a detached retina. **Charlotte Jacobs** is suffering with foot pain, making it difficult for her to walk. **David Libby**, our special organist, underwent eye surgery this week. We offer prayers and petitions for Don, Charlotte and David. May God, in his infinite wisdom and mercy, guide their medical providers, relieve their pain and calm their anxieties. May they feel the power and comfort of our loving prayers and return to us soon, in full recovery.

*Grieving/Mourning:*

**Cliff Hilderley**

**Richard Derrickson**

**John Weiss (Sid Simon's friend)**

*Surgery and Post-Surgery:*

**Rev. William Cocco**

**Carol Geiger**, (Charlotte Jacobs and John Still's cousin)

**Pastor Eddie Jusino**

**Betty Jean Schwarz**

**Melinda Sledd** (Sarah Ortolani's daughter)

Illness:

**Bill & Sandra Hrin**

**Darlene Griffin**

**Dee Austin**

**Pastor Lisa Salita, Georgetown Presbyterian Church**

**Hal Casey (Mable Granke's son-in-law)**

**Jeff Dunn (Genie Hindall's brother)**

**Norman & Judy Moore**

**Liam Green (grandson of Diana Green)**

**John Hawkins**

Long Term Issues/Continuing Prayer:

**Mary Beth Adair**

**Linda Book**

**Pauline Cottingham**

**Frances Cowgill**

**Mable Granke**

**Jean Guenveur**

**Jane Nicholson**

**Betty Pratt**