

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Full of Life – Community Blood Drive: Thursday, July 22 1:30-7:00p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church.

Summer Youth Events – Rocky Gap Day: August 8 (rain date August 15), lunch at church, a day at the lake. Call the church office for more information.

Children's Ministry Update – On Track with Jesus: one day only VBS event. Wednesday, August 18, 6-8pm in the Pavilion.

Prayer Quilts – feel the prayer support of your brothers and sisters in faith. If you'd like to request a prayer quilt, please contact the church office.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather together in the name of Jesus Christ—
members of God's family,
and brothers and sisters to one another.

There are no outsiders here among us,
no one has any special standing or bragging rights.

For we have been brought together by the redeeming love of Jesus.

Let's join together in worship!

Christine Longhurst, re:Worship, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/06/call-to-worship-ephesians-2-11-22.html>

PRELUDE/LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

OPENING PRAYER

“ALIENS AND SOJOURNERS”

God, we are aliens and sojourners in this world,
but you invite us to be your guests.

You lavishly offer us your hospitality
and lovingly welcome us into your family,

You invite us to share in the abundance of your kingdom.

God, you have shown us that providing hospitality to strangers
opens a doorway into the Kingdom of God.

Remind us that when we offer hospitality to others,
we are receiving Christ into our midst and so fulfilling the law of love.

We open our hearts to embrace the stranger, the friend, the rich, and the poor,

We open our lives to offer a generous heart toward all.

Adapted from A Litany of Hospitality written by Christine Sine. Posted on Word Made Flesh.

Reposted on re: Worship, July 21, 2013, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/07/prayer-aliens-and-sojourners.html>.

*OPENING HYMN #472 “Near to the Heart of God”

Chorus

O Jesus blest Redeemer

Sent from the heart of God

Hold us who wait before Thee

Near to the heart of God

Verse 1

There is a place of quiet rest
Near to the heart of God
A place where sin cannot molest
Near to the heart of God

Verse 2

There is a place of comfort sweet
Near to the heart of God
A place where we our Savior meet
Near to the heart of God

Verse 3

There is a place of full release
Near to the heart of God
A place where all is joy and peace
Near to the heart of God

CCLI Song # 93700

Cleland Boyd McAfee

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SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 23

23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

23:3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff-- they comfort me.

23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

SERMON

“He Is Our Peace”

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come before you on behalf of the people who work hard and do not have regular rest from their labor.

For those who work for inadequate wages and without proper benefits:

Hear their cries.

For your people who work for Sabbath violators, slave masters, and in sweat shop conditions:

Hear their cries.

For those who work for modern-day sharecroppers who steal what they have rightly earned:

Lord, have mercy.

For those for whom home is a place of work without celebration and appreciation:

Lord, give them rest.

Deliverer from slave labor, we ask that you lead your people to places of rest and restoration for their bodies, minds, and souls.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.

Alexis Carter, *Africana Liturgical Resources*, Pentecost Package 1, ed. Safiyah Fosua.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God, you love us so deeply that you pursue us relentlessly. You sent your son Jesus into the world that we who were far off would be brought near to you by his blood. We offer our gifts to you, knowing we can never outgive you, never balance the equation. You don't desire balance, no quid-pro-quo, only that we find the peace you desire for us, whose foundation is in your word and whose cornerstone is Christ alone. In that holy name, we pray. Amen. (Ephesians 2:11-22)

*CLOSING HYMN #117 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Verse 1

O God our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home

Verse 2

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure
Sufficient is Thine arm alone
And our defense is sure

CCLI Song # 43152

Isaac Watts | William Croft

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*BENEDICTION: EPHESIANS 2: 11-22

We leave this place no longer strangers,
but members of God's own family,
brothers and sisters through the blood of Jesus Christ.
Together, we are being built into a holy dwelling place
where God lives by the Spirit.
So go out with joy and confidence
to love and serve the world,
for we do not go alone.

From re: worship, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/07/benediction-ephesians-2-11-22.html>.

*POSTLUDE/DISMISSAL