



Family of faith,  
as you come to this place  
—as you leave this place—  
may God grant you  
the curiosity to counter assumptions,  
the vulnerability to befriend,  
the bravery to speak your truth,  
the wisdom to listen,  
the strength to ask for help,  
the resiliency to chose love,  
(even when it's hard),  
and the awareness of the Holy Spirit  
who is always beside you.  
In the name of the Great Connector—Love itself.

**st. John's**

July 23, 2023

# WELCOME

We are so happy you are with us. Please add your voice and heart to the prayers. Help others find a place and greet the person next to you as we prepare to worship together. Please stand and sit as you are comfortable.

## I've been meaning to ask ...

Some of the best conversations start with good questions—questions we've been meaning to ask, questions that keep us curious, and questions that lead us deeper into courage and connection. On July 23 we begin a series around four guiding questions: *"I've been meaning to ask... Where are you from? Where does it hurt? What do you need? Where do we go from here?"*

These questions aren't surface level; they invite us to tell our stories, share our pain, care for one another, and dream about a new way forward together.

## Week 1: Where are you from?

In order to build connection and trust, we need to listen to each other's stories and experiences to learn who and what has shaped us. We also need to feel seen and known for who we are. In this first week, we hope to affirm the particularity of our identities while also acknowledging our common ground. Formed from the dust and God's very breath in the garden of Eden, **we have a common home**, a shared birthplace, and a collective calling: to sustain and care for all of creation, including one another. The story of Jesus calling the disciples provides a helpful charge: to "come and see" what such a journey holds.

In this first week, we wish to address how the question, "Where are you from?" is sometimes coupled with assumptions, judgments, and even microaggressions—all of which can be exhausting and painful to receive. Our hope is to acknowledge, disrupt, and release the assumptions we hold about others.

Yet also in these next weeks, **we wish to avoid glorifying a false sense of unity** that glosses over or ignores inequities and real harm done – we come from the garden, but it isn't a rose garden. We acknowledge how marginalized groups and individuals who've survived trauma are often urged to forgive and forget without accountability or repair; we want to avoid perpetuating this pattern. We trust you will be mindful of this dynamic during this series.

## ministers

Sound	Robert Rumbolz
Greeter	Kathy Riley
Worship Leader	Debora Smith
Reader	John Walsh
Reader	Jen Litterer-Trevino
Preacher	Megan Nickles
Intercessor	Diana Anderson
Presider	Susan McEvoy
Communion Server	Mary Dillivan
Communion Server	Kim Dillivan
Communion Bread	Susan McEvoy
Coffee Hour	Rob Koelling & Laura Greathouse

## prayer concerns

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of Central Africa

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Holy Trinity, Thermopolis

We believe that lifting up the names of the suffering brings healing and health regardless of our knowledge of their needs.

Hugh B. & Marge; Lee & Kelly;  
Hunter & Charlotte; Shirley & Deb;  
Richard & Jennifer; Tim & Lynnae;  
Robin & Mark; Margie & Josey;  
Bobbi & Bentley; Bob & Charlotte;  
Ann & Martha; Brandon & Diedre;  
Rob R., Kathy E., Nelson, Tammy,  
Rob K., Bobby B., Larry, Alex, Irene,  
Nancy, Alan, Katy, Marlynn, Sue, Kahli,  
Ron and Jane

Justin, Jacob, Patrick, Reece,  
Coleman, Bryce and Nathan who  
are serving in the military.

Bennett who is living and  
studying in Japan.

Josephine and Don who reside in  
care centers.

## celebrations

Birthday: Nicholas Urbach—25<sup>th</sup>, Oscar Trevino—28<sup>th</sup>, Joshua Wright—29<sup>th</sup>

# prelude

“Hamba Nathi Mkhululi Wethu (Come Walk With Us, the Journey Is Long),” Nongoma Jumping Boys.

# hymn



1. When love is found and hope comes home, Sing and be
2. When love has flow'ed in trust and care, Build both each
3. When love is tried as loved-ones change, Hold still to
4. When love is torn and trust be-trayed, Pray strength to
5. Praise God for love, praise God for life, In age or



glad that we are one. When love ex - plodes and  
day that love may dare To reach be - yond home's  
hope though all seems strange, Till ease re - turns and  
love till tor - ments fade, Till lov - ers keep no  
youth, in calm or strife. Lift up your hearts let



fills the sky, Praise God and share our Mak - er's joy.  
warmth and light, To serve and strive for truth and right.  
love grows wise Through lis - t'ning ears and o - pened eyes.  
score of wrong But hear through pain love's Eas - ter song.  
love be fed Through death and life in bro - ken bread.

Text: Brian Wren, b.1936  
Tune: O WALY WALY, LM; English; harm. by Martin West, b.1929  
© 1983, Hope Publishing Co.

## gathering

We are from north and south.

**We are from tiny apartments and expansive homes.**

We are from this city and from others far away.

**We are from big families and dinners made for one.**

We are from stages of grief and stages of love.

**We are from hot summers and cold winters.**

We are from kitchens with passed down recipes,  
and front porches with old, familiar swings.

**We are from the dust of the earth and the stars of the sky.**

We are from many of places; today we are here.

**Today we are together.**

Holy God, gather us in.

## confession

Family of faith, there is power in honesty.

We worship a loving and gracious God.

Let us pray together.

When people heard that Jesus was from Nazareth,  
they asked, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

**We confess, God of beginnings, that we have asked the same question.**

Can anything good come from that side of town?

**From a school with poor test scores?**

From a criminal history?

**From the opposite political party?**

From a history of addiction?

**From a faith with doubt?**

From a church with faults?

**Holy God, forgive us for doubting that you are in all things at all times.**

**Open our eyes to see your goodness**

**as the expansive grace it is.**

Can anything good come from there?

**Yes.**

**Always yes.**

**Amen.**

# scripture readings

*We sit.*

It is good and pleasant when all God's people live in unity.

*Ps. 133:1*

Loving God, draw near to us and join us together, that we may be one in you.

Help us to hear and carry forward your message of hospitality and healing.

A reading from \_\_\_\_.

*After the reading*

Word of God, word of promise.

**Thanks be to God.**

# sermon

# hymn *We sing twice.*

\*Refrain



Love one an - oth - er as I have loved you. Care for each  
oth - er. I have cared for you. Bear each oth - er's bur - dens.  
Bind each oth - er's wounds; and so you will know my re - turn.

\*Verses available in accompaniment books.

Text based on John 14-16; 1 Corinthians 13. Text and music © 1987, Robert J. Dufford, SJ.  
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# prayers

God of North, South, East, and West, we come to you in prayer with gratitude overflowing for the places we've been, for the people who've shaped us, and for the spaces we call home. We also come before you with concerns and petitions in our hearts, saying God of All Places, **hear us.**

*We stand, kneel or sit. The intercessor continues, closing with*

God of All Places, you have always been our first home. We offer you these prayers for the spaces we call home today. Hold our hearts alongside our worries. Relieve us of our burdens. Protect us in the palm of your hand, and draw us closer to one another as you do. In the name of the One who calls us to Love. **Amen.**

## peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*We greet one another in the name of God.*

## announcements

## offertory

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. *Romans 12:10*

## MUSIC

“Where Two or Three Are Gathered,” The Colledgeville Composers Group.

## Great thanksgiving

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right for us to give thanks.**

Wondrous and merciful God, we thank and praise you  
because we did not choose you, you chose us.

You destined us to become your friends  
from before the foundation of the world.

You showed steadfast love and faithfulness to your covenant people  
and remembered your promises in every generation.

Greater love has no one than you;

in Christ you laid down your life and turned us from servants into friends,  
and by your Spirit you raise us up to be your beloved companions forever.

And so we gladly thank you,

with angels and all who sit at your right hand in heaven,  
singing the hymn of your unending praise:

**Holy, holy, holy is the God of hosts.**

**The whole earth is filled with God’s glory.**

**Praise God!**

**Welcome the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Tender God, in Jesus you fully shared our humanity  
as you expressed and embodied your full divinity.  
Send your Holy Spirit on your people,  
that impulse may turn to forbearing faithfulness,  
need may become humble gentleness,  
and good intentions may be fulfilled in sacrificial kindness.  
By that same Spirit, bless these gifts of friend and neighbor  
that they may become your church,  
and these offerings of bread and wine may be for us  
the body and blood of your son Jesus Christ;  
who at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,  
broke the bread and gave it to them, saying,  
“Take, eat This is my body which is given for you  
Do this to remember me.”

After supper he took the cup.

Again, he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
“Drink this all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, to remember me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

Generous God, in Christ you show us what it means to love.

Bless your children with patience and kindness.

Dispel envy and pride, self-seeking and anger.

Turn our memory from the wrongs of others

into wonder at your forgiving mercy.

Protect us, empower us, inspire us, persevere with us,

that we may each find our vocation in the mission of your church,

and your church may discover its purpose in witness and service to your world,

and your world may enter its destiny as a unity of love,

until the day when prophecies, tongues, and knowledge cease,

and we see you face to face, and find love in you forever,

Creator, Redeemer, Spirit.

**AMEN.**



# Lord's prayer

We pray together.

**Our Father in heaven,**

**we pray that your name will always be kept holy.**

**We pray that your kingdom will come—**

**that what you want will be done here on earth,  
the same as in heaven.**

**Give us the food we need for today.**

**Forgive our sins,**

**just as we have forgiven those who did wrong to us.**

**Don't let us be tempted,**

**but save us from the Evil One.**

**For the kingdom and the power and the glory belong to you  
forever and forever.**

**Amen.**

# breaking bread

We break this bread

to share in the Body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**

These are God's gifts for the journey.

**We share them with our companions on the way.**

# COMMUNION

*Please come to the table, whether you are single, married or divorced, drinking, using or sober, abled, disabled, or ill, gay, straight, or discovering, wealthy, getting by or in debt.*

*Christ meets us all.*

*Approach the rail from the left aisle and take a cup; used cups go on the tray on the right.*

*You may receive only bread or only wine. Our Eucharistic bread is handmade and robust. If you prefer a wafer, please tell your server.*

# MUSIC

"Would You Harbor Me?" Cantus.

"He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother," Various artists.

# gratitude

*We stand.*

Let us pray.

**Good and loving God,**

**We thank you for drawing us together,  
uniting us at one table.**

**We thank you for the sustaining grace you offer us,  
again and again.**

**We thank you for making yourself known to us  
and revealing your love for us through this encounter.**

**We ask that you open our hearts ever wider to you and to our neighbors.**

**We ask that our community be drawn together;  
that we may be one with each other and with you.**

**We ask that we take forth from this table  
the courage to ask the hard questions  
that lead us deeper into communion,  
that guide our efforts,  
and that reveal where your Spirit is already at work.**

**Amen.**

# hymn



1. God who cre - at - ed hearts to love, Show - 'ring all bless - ings
2. Je - sus at Ca - na gave a sign, Turn - ing the wa - ter
3. Spir - it of God, be at their side: Wis - dom and com - fort,
4. Sing, friends and fam - 'ly gath - ered here, Voic - es in wit - ness
5. God, let our joy - ful sing - ing be Sign of our faith com -



1. from a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Give these, who come to
2. in - to wine: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Sign that con - tin - ues
3. guard - ian, guide. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Make of their hearts a
4. ring - ing clear; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Here is the mys - ter -
5. mu - ni - ty. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Bap - tized in wa - ter,



1. you with praise, Peace, love and laugh - ter all their days.
  2. as he said— Love, liv - ing, ris - en from the dead.
  3. rest - ing place; In ev - 'ry tri - al, gen - tle grace.
  4. y be - gun: Wo - man and man be - com - ing one.
  5. we are fed, Shar - ing the liv - ing wine and bread.
- } Al - le - lu - ia!



- 1-5. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: LM with alleluias; M.D. Ridge, © 1992, M.D. Ridge. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.  
Music: *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1623.

# sending

Jesus said to his friends,

“This is my command: Love each other.”

**We go with the love of God.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## SOURCES

This service and its themes come from Rev. Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art LLC, [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org) with the following exceptions:

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