

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 a.m.

August 20, 2023

Entering God's Presence

Welcome, Life in the Community, and Ritual of Friendship

*Hymn 401 **Here in This Place**

GATHER US IN

*Expressing Our Joy

Reece Humphreys

Leader: Choose this day whom you will serve.

People: We choose the living God.

Leader: The road is narrow that leads to life.

People: We will walk the way of Christ.

Leader: Faith is not about holding on.

People: Faith is about letting go.

Leader: We offer more than words, O God.

People: We offer you our lives.

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray. (Congregation seated.)

Prayer of Trust and Confidence

Invitation to Self-Examination and Confession of our Need for God's Forgiveness (unison)

Merciful God, when we let you touch the deep places within us, we are moved to tears of remorse. Again and again, we violate the best you intend for us, in order to pursue our own whims and desires. We labor for food that perishes and ignore the Bread of Life. We take for ourselves what you intend for others, and resent you questioning our stewardship. We settle for fragmentation rather than working for unity. Forgive and heals us, God.

Time of Silence and Personal Confession

The Assurance of Forgiveness

*Hymn 684 **Faith Begins by Letting Go**

LUX PRIMA

Proverbs 18:24 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 567 in the pew Bible.]

Solo **The Lord is My Light**
Pat Benzien, soprano

Frances Allitsen

Philippians 2:1-5 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 186 in the pew Bible.]

Sermon **The Lost Art of Friendship?**

The Rev. Vance E. Polley

*Affirmation of Faith and **Gloria Patri** (No. 581)

Christ Jesus though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death—even death on a Cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen. (Phil. 2:5-11)

Ministry of Prayer [Text prayer requests to: (843) 437-4239]

Dedicating our Gifts and Tithes ~ **See oursunrise.org to give securely online**

(In the *Offering*, we dedicate our lives and a portion of the resources God has entrusted to us. Your gifts may be dedicated online, by mail, or in-person.)

*Prayer of Dedication, concluding with *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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn 761 **Called as Partners in Christ's Service**

BEECHER

*Benediction

*Going Out into the World

*Those that are able, please stand.