

9:00 a.m.

**Devotional Service**

October 8, 2023

Welcome to the 9:00 a.m. Devotional Service. Together, may we rejoice and give thanks for God's loving grace in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Welcome, Life in the Community, and Ritual of Friendship

\*Hymn 401

**Here in This Place**

GATHER US IN

\*Expressing Our Joy

Leader: Great God, in Christ you call our name

People: and then receive us as your own,

Leader: not through some merit, right or claim,

People: but by your gracious love alone.

Leader: Great God, in Christ you set us free

People: your life to live, your joy to share.

Leader: Give us your Spirit's liberty

People: to turn from guilt and dull despair

Leader: and offer all that faith can do

People: while love is making all things new. (Verse by Brian Wren)

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)

**Christ our Lord, you have graced our lives with a love lavish beyond measure. Emptied of any selfish ambition, you poured yourself out for us with a resolution that shames our pale commitments. The depth and breadth of your love should inspire us to a ministry knowing no boundaries and no limits in its kindness. Our response has hardly been as generous. We are timid in love and cautious in affection. Christ our Savior, have mercy on us. Cleanse our hearts. Through your loving spirit empower us to love as you have loved us.**

Time of Silence and Personal Confession

The Assurance of Forgiveness

Exodus 3:1-6, 13, 14 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 48 in the pew Bible.]

Romans 5:1-5 (NRSV) [You will find the text on page 145 in the pew Bible.]

Sermon

**God's Grace Sets Our Spirits Free**

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](http://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.)

\*At the Presentation

**Doxology** (No. 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

\*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 649

**Amazing Grace**

AMAZING GRACE

\*Blessing

\*Going Out into the World

\*All those who are able, please stand.