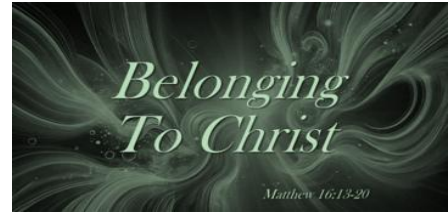


Order of Worship

13th Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026



Gathering and Announcements *Like a River Glorious*

Prelude *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* – arr. Mark Hayes

***Call to worship**

Hear O Israel! I am calling! Are you listening?

We are here and we are ready.

Beloved Children, who do you say that I am?

You are our rock and our redeemer. Our trust is in you. Our hearts, minds and souls belong to you!

I created you, named you and have a calling for your life.

We give thanks with our whole hearts for your steadfast love!

***Opening Hymn # 305 Come Sing, O Church in Joy!**

***Call to confession**

You call out to us, Lord, but we struggle to listen. As we come before you with our hearts open, quiet the noise of the world, of our pressing thoughts and fears, so that we may hear your Spirit fully.

***Prayer of confession**

God of truth, our brokenness eats away at our souls. We allow your voice to be drowned out as you call us to see the suffering in our world and respond to the needs of your children. In our busy lives, we convince ourselves that there is no time to help, no space for prayer and no need for justice. Forgive us. Remind us that only when we slow down and breathe deeply of your Holy Spirit and holy Word can our ears hear your voice. Inspire us to greater love for you and for one another. Amen.

***Assurance of pardon** (based on Isaiah 51:4 and Matthew 16:19)

The prophet Isaiah wrote, "Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me." Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys to the kingdom."

We know love and forgiveness because God first loved us and has been calling out to us forever, "You are my beloved!" May we respond to such abundant grace with deep gratitude for God's unending forgiveness.

**God loves me, heals me, strengthens me and calls me by name.
Through Jesus I am made whole! Thanks be to God!**

Choral Anthem *Love Lifted Me* – arr. Joseph M. Martin

Prayer for illumination

God of light, your wisdom is right here, speaking truth to us in love.
We pray for you to open our eyes, our ears and our hearts so we may
drink in all that you have for us to learn today.

Sermon Series – What A Fellowship

Scripture readings Matthew 16: 13 – 20; Romans 10: 9 - 10

Sermon *Stand Up, Stand Up*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

***Affirmation of faith** (The Confession of 1967, inclusive language ed.)

The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides men and women in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries.

The members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of all in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics. But they have to fight against pretensions and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare. Their strength is in their confidence that God's purpose rather than human schemes will finally prevail.

Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

Hymn of Response # 610 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

***Call for the offering**

Paul wrote that we are the body with many members, each with a different function. Our gifts are myriad, yet our calling is common: to return to God that which we have received according to God's grace.

Offertory *Be Thou My Vision* – arr. Joel Raney

Doxology # 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Prayer of dedication**

God of Abundance, we have received blessings from you and today we hear your call to share our time, our talent and our treasure with your beloved community. May these gifts bring your light, love and hope to all who need them.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

God of Wisdom, you continually call out to us because you love us and desire what is best for us. You ask us to be your hands and feet so that each of your children is held, nourished and supported within a caring community. We are grateful for the community of friends surrounding us today. Your tender whispers have brought us into your house, and you rejoice in our connection and companionship.

Although you reach out to each of us, we know it can be difficult to feel your love when we are suffering. You ache at the sound of our cries, and your comforting assurances surround us. Help us to hear the cries of our neighbors, especially those who cry alone. May we be a blessing to those whose tears have run dry from hunger, hopelessness and fear.

We pray for communities wounded by violence, division and injustice. Grant wisdom to those entrusted with leadership and courage to those working for peace. Open our eyes to the needs around us, and keep us from turning away when compassion requires something of us. Remind us that no act of mercy is too small and no person is beyond the reach of your love.

Through Jesus, you have shown us the way of love: to feed, heal, welcome and serve. Grant us the courage to lean on you as we answer your call to come alongside those who are hurting, offering comfort and praying without ceasing.

Guide us in your ways as we pray the prayer you taught us, saying **Our Father...**"

Hymn of Sending # 826 *Lift High the Cross

Charge and benediction (based on Isaiah 51:7)

"Listen to me ... you people who have my teachings in your hearts," wrote the prophet Isaiah. As you move out from this sacred space, may God's Word guide you to the people you need to meet and the places you need to be.

May the God of all creation bless you and keep you. May Jesus Christ make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Holy Spirit lift up her countenance upon you and bring you peace as all of God's children say, **Amen!**

Postlude *Lift High the Cross*

Jessye Whitis, Music Director and Pianist; Julie McPhail, Liturgist

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Liturgy written by Jeny Carlson.