

# Order of Worship

15th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 1, 2024

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**Gathering and Welcome** *Tis a Gift to be Simple*

**Prelude** *Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* – American Melody

Jessye Whitis, pianist

## #Call to worship

Arise, my love, my fair one and come away.

### **Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest**

For now the winter is past; the flowers appear on the earth

### **Sun, moon and stars in their courses above**

The time of singing has come; the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

### **Join with all nature in manifold witness**

Arise, my love, my fair one and come away

**To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. Let us worship God!**

## \*Opening Hymn # 39 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

## \*Call to confession

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting; God's grace never changes. Therefore, we come together to confess our sin, trusting that in Christ, we have already been forgiven:

## \*Prayer of confession

**Merciful God, we confess that our words and actions do not always line up. We are quick to confess our faith, but slow to live it. We sing praise to your name, but we pass by orphans and widows on the other side of the street. Change us, O God. By your grace, transform us. Root out the selfishness that hardens our hearts, and replace it with compassion and generosity. Empower us by your Spirit that we might be doers of your word and not hearers only. All this we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, Amen.**

**\*Assurance of pardon** (All sing, "Great is Thy Faithfulness," #39)

**Great is thy faithfulness!**

**Great is thy faithfulness!**

**Morning by morning, new mercies I see.**

**All I have needed thy hand hath provided.**

**Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

**Choral Anthem** *Communion Song* – by Mark Weston

**Prayer for illumination**

Gracious God, we see as in a mirror dimly. Your Spirit offers clarity, wisdom and understanding. Open our eyes, that these many words of Scripture may bear witness to your true Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Scripture readings** Acts 10: 1 – 16; John 7: 1 - 13

**Sermon** *Eat This, Not That*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

**Call for the offering**

James writes, "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." Since God is the source of all generosity, let us generously return our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

**Offertory** *In the Sweet By and By* – by Joseph Webster

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

**Prayer of dedication**

Generous God, we return to you these gifts, not only of our resources, but also of our lives. Sanctify us and use us to work out your purposes in the world. Amen.

**Hymn of Communion #500** *Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread*

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**\*Hymn of Sending # 406** *We are Standing on Holy Ground*

**Charge and benediction**

Now, friends, God sends us out.

May we who have heard the Word in this place go forth to live that gospel in the world.

May we go to feed and clothe and tend and pray,  
to speak God's love to those who have forgotten it.  
May we offer our whole selves to God,  
and to one another.

And may the grace of Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the friendship of the Holy Spirit,  
accompany us along our way,  
now and forever. Amen.

**Postlude** *The Solid Rock*

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*Adapted from Liturgy written by Ginna Bairby.*