

39  
YEARS



**Rev. Gary Haller**  
39 years of ministry

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**Sunday, May 21, 2017**

## Order of Worship

**“Maybe I’m not making big changes in the world, but if I have somehow helped or encouraged somebody along the journey then I’ve done what I’m called to do.”**

—Sister Thea Bowman

**“Dear Lord, there is no certainty that my life will be any easier in the years ahead, or that my heart will be any calmer. But there is the certainty that you are waiting for me and will welcome me home when I have persevered in my long journey to your house.”**

—Henri J. M. Nouwen

**“It has never been either practical or useful to leave all things and follow Christ. And yet it is spiritually prudent.”**

—Thomas Merton, *The Monastic Journey*

### THE GATHERING AND QUIET PREPARATION

“Fugue in E-flat” (St. Anne)

J. S. Bach

**\*THE HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 160** “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

#### **\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** The journey of faith is a journey through life. We are pilgrims, travelers, making our way.

**People:** **We sojourn on the pathway of the saints. We walk the same highway and follow the same landmarks which lead them.**

**Leader:** But for each generation, in each place and time, and for each seeker who travels this way, the road is different.

**People:** **Let us be united in the forgiveness and love of Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith!**

**Leader:** As we worship, we celebrate new faith growing like a new branch with its leaves about to blossom.

**People:** **We hold out our hands to our visitors and beckon them to join us in the life of faith, hope and love.**

**Leader:** Let us be of one heart and mind in Christ and learn from one another.

**People:** **God desires a place where the fullness of grace is known. May we heed the Spirit’s call to be the family of Christ!**

**\*THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 92**

(Verses 1, 4, 6)

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth, over and around us lies.  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild.  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For thyself, best Gift Divine, to the world so freely given,  
offering that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven.  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

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### **THE TIME OF WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE**

*The Ritual of Friendship folder is located at the center aisle; please sign and pass.*

### **THE RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES (11:00)**

Kelly Willian

### **THE ANTHEM**

(9:30)

Wendy Baker, Tiffany Ericson, DeAnn Forbes,  
Will Lobb, Kate Wilcox, Scott Wilkinson

(11:00)

“Draw the Circle Wide”  
IXOYC Choir

Mark Miller

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### **THE INVITATION TO PRAYER**

#### **THE UNISON PRAYER**

**God of the sojourners, be present with us on our journey through life. In these moments, we wait upon you in stillness and patience because you turn strength into weakness and weakness into strength. Help us to be faithful to your ways of love and grace. Help our weary hearts to be grateful for the blessings of home, of friends, of blessings beyond deserving. Lift our hearts with the wings of song and heal our souls with the balm of prayer, enliven our minds with the words of scripture and proclamation, and enable us to dedicate our strength, our substance, and our service to your work in the world. Now hear our silent prayers for those in need and for the world...**

#### **THE SILENT PRAYER**

#### **THE UNISON WORDS OF GRACE**

**O Lord, let us receive those gifts of love that shape and change and move our lives to perfection. May others see in us only what we see in them, perfection and beauty beyond telling.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(sung to the tune of Alfred Hay Malotte)*

**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.**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS**

*"If anyone has the world's goods and sees others in need, yet closes their heart, how does God's love abide in them? Let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth." 1 John 3:17-18*

**THE OFFERTORY**

**"I Love to Tell the Story"**  
Chancel Choir

Benjamin Kornelis

**\*THE DOXOLOGY NO. 94**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**\*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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**\*THE HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 400** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

**THE SCRIPTURES**

Matthew 5:18-23  
Philippians 4:1, 4-9

(Pew Bible, pg. 882)  
(Pew Bible, pg. 1073)

This is God's living Word for God's living people! ~ **"Thanks be to God!"**

**THE SERMON**

*I'm Still Growing:*  
**"What I've Learned About Following Christ"**  
Rev. Gary Haller

**THE WESLEY COVENANT PRAYER**

(Inserted Prayer Card)

**\*THE HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 89** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

**\*THE BENEDICTION AND PERIOD OF SILENCE**

*Please remain quietly in your pew during the recession of the clergy.*

**\*THE POSTLUDE**

**"Pomp and Circumstance"**

Elgar