



August 27, 2023 – Livestream  
Celebration of Ministries Sunday

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunil Kotian

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

*God of Mercy, God of Grace*

arr. T. H. Jones

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Servants of Christ: the world is waiting to see God's faithful love.

**People: We will risk our lives and bear the cross!**

Leader: Servants of Christ: the world is waiting to hear God's joyful song.

**People: We will join the chorus and share the work!**

\*OPENING HYMN #568

*Christ for the World We Sing*

***Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring, with loving zeal;  
the poor, and them that mourn, the faint and overborne,  
sin-sick and sorrow-worn, whom Christ doth heal.***

***Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring, with fervent prayer;  
the wayward and the lost, by restless passions tossed,  
redeemed at countless cost, from dark despair.***

***Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring, with one accord;  
with us the work to share, with us reproach to dare,  
with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.***

***Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring, with joyful song;  
the newborn souls, whose days, reclaimed from error's ways,  
inspired with hope and praise, to Christ belong.***

OPENING PRAYER

**Great is the power of your love, O God,  
and urgent is your command to serve  
in the name of your Son our Savior, Jesus.**

**May we bear witness to your mercy  
and be channels of your compassion  
to all who are hurting and hopeless,  
through the strength of your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Walkin' with Jesus has been the greatest thrill I've ever known, guiding my footsteps  
 as I travel on this road toward home. Holding my hand, lest I should stumble on this Gospel way.  
 Yes, I'm walkin' with Jesus, we shall reach home someday. Yes, I'm walkin' with Jesus to that land so fair.  
 Saints will be singin', joy-bells a-ringin' when we all get there. Crowns will be given if we are livin' for him  
 everyday. Yes, I'm walkin' with Jesus, we shall reach home someday.  
 If you're tired of this road you're walkin', look to Jesus today. He your load of sin will carry,  
 guide you all the way. Then with joy your heart can sing as you go on life's way.  
 Yes, I'm walkin' with Jesus, we shall reach home someday. I'm gonna keep walkin' and keep talkin' and  
 keep singin' in Jesus' name. I'm gonna keep believin' and receivin' ev'rything that He has for me. Crowns  
 will be given if we are livin' for Him everyday. Yes, I'm walkin' with Jesus, yes, I'm talkin' with Jesus. Yes,  
 I'm walkin' with Jesus, we shall reach home someday!

## \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Psalm 86:1-13

Amy Sell

Leader: Bend down, O Lord, and hear my prayer;

**People: answer me, for I need your help.**

Leader: Protect me, for I am devoted to you.

**People: Save me, for I serve you and trust you.**

**You are my God.**

Leader: Be merciful to me, O Lord,  
 for I am calling on you constantly.

**People: Give me happiness, O Lord,  
 for I give myself to you.**

Leader: O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive,

**People: so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help.**

Leader: Listen closely to my prayer, O Lord;  
 hear my urgent cry.

**People: I will call to you whenever I am in trouble,  
 and you will answer me.**

Leader: No god is like you, O Lord.  
 None can do what you do!

**People: All the nations you made  
 will come and bow before you, Lord;  
 they will praise your holy name.**

Leader: For you are great and perform wonderful deeds.

**People: You alone are God.**

Leader: Teach me your ways, O Lord,  
 that I may live according to your truth!

**People: Grant me purity of heart,  
 so that I may honor you.**

Leader: With all my heart I will praise you, O Lord my God.

**People: I will give glory to your name forever,  
 for your love for me is very great.  
 You have rescued me from the depths of death.**

FIRST LESSON

Romans 12:1-8

<sup>1</sup> I appeal to you therefore, kindred, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup> We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup> ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup> the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF PRAYER #424

*Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone*

***Must Jesus bear the cross alone, and all the world go free?***

***No, there's a cross for everyone, and there's a cross for me.***

***How happy are the saints above, who once went sorrowing here!***

***But now they taste unmingled love, and joy without a tear.***

***The consecrated cross I'll bear till death shall set me free;***

***and then go home my crown to wear, for there's a crown for me.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Brandon Wallace

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

**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 trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,**

**and the glory, forever. Amen.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE #2007

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

***Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!***

***My heart knows how to say to you: You are holy, Lord!***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Amy Sell

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me;  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;  
This grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there a thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

## \*DOXOLOGY #94

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow****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!***

## \*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 20:25-28

<sup>25</sup>But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. <sup>26</sup>It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup>and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; <sup>28</sup>just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

*Servant Class*

Darren Cushman Wood

## \*HYMN OF DEDICATION #2237

*As a Fire Is Meant for Burning****As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,******so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.******Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,******we join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.******We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.******We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.******By our gentle, loving actions we would show that Christ is light.******In a humble, listening Spirit we would live to God's delight.******As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,******so may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples, many hued.******As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,******may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.***

## \*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

*[Please leave the sanctuary from the back doors (east side)  
and follow the hallway through the celebration of ministries exhibits.]*

*The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God and  
in honor of Donald Eugene Smith-Brown's ("Mr. Don's") birthday.*

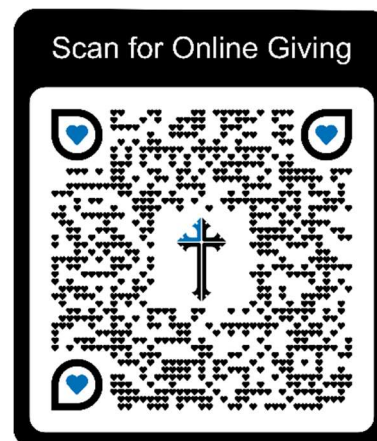
### Upcoming Events

Young Adult Canoe Trip, Today, 3:00pm

Youth and Family Pool Party, September 3

Farmer's Market, September 7, 4:00-6:00 pm

Worship Without Walls and Cookout, September 10, 11:00am  
(no 8:30am service)



### This week's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood, *Senior Pastor*

Sunil Kotian, *Pastor of Mission & Outreach*

Amy Sell, *Minister of Discipleship & Formation*

Brandon Wallace, *Minister of Youth & Young Adults*

Lydia Shaw, *Liturgist*

John Hague and Allen McCormack, *Audio Visual*

Mark Gilgallon, *Music Director*

Heather Hinton, *Organist*