



September 17, 2023 – Livestream
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunil Kotian

SPOTLIGHT ON MINISTRIES

Fall Festival

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

The Solid Rock

arr. C. Phillips

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: All hail the never-failing Lord!

People: Praise, glory, and honor to Christ Jesus our Redeemer!

Leader: All hail the ever-prevailing God!

People: Praise, glory, and honor to Christ Jesus our Savior!

*OPENING HYMN #110

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;

our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.

For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;

his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,

on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,

were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;

Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same,

and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,

we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.

The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;

his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;

one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;

the Spirit and the gifts are ours, thru him who with us sideth.

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;

the body they may kill; God's truth abideth still;

his kingdom is forever.

OPENING PRAYER

**O God,
in the hard times we will trust you
and on our easy days we will praise you,
for you have always been and will always be
our high rock of salvation,
our great fortress of mercy,
and our eternal shelter of peace. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Cleft for Me

M. Hayes
Cathedral Singers

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee;
let the water and the blood, from Thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill Thy law's commands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to Thee for dress; helpless, look to Thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE #814

Psalm 95

Amy Sell

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord;

People: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Leader: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

People: let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!

Leader: For the Lord is a great God,
and a great Ruler above all gods,
in whose hands are the depths of the earth
and also the heights of the mountains.

**People: The sea belongs to God who made it,
and the dry land, because God formed it.**

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down,

People: let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

Leader: For the Lord is our God,

**People: we are the people of God's pasture,
the sheep of God's hand.**

Leader: Hear the voice of the Lord today!

Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
when your forebears tested me,
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

**People: For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, "They are a people who err in heart,
and they do not regard my ways."**

**Therefore I swore in my anger
that they should not enter my rest.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

John Drake

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 26:1-4

¹ On that day, everyone in the land of Judah will sing this song:

Our city is strong!

We are surrounded by the walls of God's salvation.

² Open the gates to all who are righteous;
allow the faithful to enter.

³ You will keep in perfect peace
all who trust in you,
all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

⁴ Trust in the Lord always,
for the Lord God is the eternal Rock.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAYER #361

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

***Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.***

***Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.***

***Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.***

***While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.***

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 #2064

O Lord, You're Beautiful

***O Lord, you're beautiful, your face is all I seek;
and when your eyes are on this child, your grace abounds to me.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Amy Sell

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My God is a Rock

arr. G. Walth
Cathedral Singers

*My God is a Rock, God is a Rock. My God is a Rock in a weary land.
God is a Rock, my God is a Rock; a shelter in the time of storm.
I ask my God to guide me while in this world I dwell;
to show the way to heaven above and avoid the depths of hell. Refrain
My God is great and mighty, a God of priceless worth;
a God of Love, a God of Hope, who will bring peace to the earth. Refrain
And when the storms are raging, and despair is ev'rywhere,
I feel blest knowing I'm a child of God, and I'm safe, so safe in God's care. Refrain*

*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!***

SECOND LESSON

Psalm 62

- ¹ For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.
- ² He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall never be shaken.
- ³ How long will you assail a person,
will you batter your victim, all of you,
as you would a leaning wall, a tottering fence?
- ⁴ Their only plan is to bring down a person of prominence.
They take pleasure in falsehood;
they bless with their mouths,
but inwardly they curse. *Selah*
- ⁵ For God alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from him.
- ⁶ He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
- ⁷ On God rests my deliverance and my honor;
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.
- ⁸ Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us. *Selah*
- ⁹ Those of low estate are but a breath;
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.
- ¹⁰ Put no confidence in extortion,

and set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

¹¹Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,

¹²and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.
For you repay to all
according to their work.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Imagining God, Part I: God the Rock

Darren Cushman Wood

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #368

My Hope Is Built

***My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.***

***Refrain: On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.***

***When darkness veils his lovely face I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. (Refrain)***

***His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. (Refrain)***

***When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne! (Refrain)***

*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

arr. A. Lovelace

*The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God by David and Michael Came
in celebration of their seventh wedding anniversary, and in honor of the love and support of North Church.
The flowers in the West Entry are in celebration of the marriage of Hamilton Hensel and Myranda Tetzlaff
on September 15, 2023.*

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*
John Drake, *Liturgist*
John Hague, James Horton and Allen McCormack, *Audio Visual*
Mark Gilgallon, *Music Director*
Heather Hinton, *Organist*

Upcoming Events

Youth Breakfast, Today, 9:45-10:45am

Children's Ministry 101, Today, 9:45-10:45am

Youth Group Starts, Today, 1:00-3:00pm

ELEVATION starts, Today, 1:00-3:00pm

Short Stories by Jesus (Amy-Jill Levine) - book study by Pastor Sunil
September 19,26, Oct 3,10,17 - 6-7:30pm. In person and ZOOM

Fall Festival and Hymn Sing, September 24, 5:30-7:30pm

Young Adult Dinner, September 26, 6:30pm – The Garage Food Hall
at Bottleworks

