



September 15, 2024 – Livestream
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brandon Wallace

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

arr. J. Pachelbel

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Leave your faults and failures behind.

People: Jesus calls us to live again.

Leader: Leave your isolation and indifference behind.

People: Jesus calls us to love again.

Leader: Leave your disappointments and discouragement behind.

People: Jesus calls us to hope again.

*OPENING HYMN #57

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

v. 1-5, 7

***O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!***

***My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.***

***Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.***

***He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.***

***He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.***

***In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall feel your sins forgiven;
anticipate your heaven below, and own that love is heaven.***

OPENING PRAYER

**Faithful God,
who knows us better than we know ourselves,
fill our hearts with the assurance of your grace
and fulfill our desires as may be best for us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A song is a beautiful thing!
 Voices join in full-throated melody, and lift to blend in glorious harmony,
 our hearts are moved, even lifted to ecstasy, with a song; for a song is a beautiful thing.
 But when I sing, Lord, let it not be for me alone lest fruitless I be when day is done;
 touch Thou my lips, Thy beauty let me see, and fill my heart with love eternally,
 that all may come to know and adore Thee, Lord, this prayer I bring; Lord, to Thee I sing!

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Psalm 105:1-11

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name,
 make known God's deeds among the peoples!

**People: Sing to the Lord, sing praises!
 tell of all God's wonderful works!**

Leader: Glory in God's holy name;
 let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

**People: Seek the Lord and God's strength,
 seek the Lord's presence continually!**

Leader: Remember the wonderful works that God has done,
 the miracles and judgments God uttered,

**People: O offspring of Abraham, God's servant,
 children of Jacob, God's chosen ones!**

Leader: The Lord is our God;
 whose judgments are in all the earth.

**People: The Lord is mindful of their everlasting covenant,
 of the word commanded for a thousand generations,**

Leader: the covenant made with Abraham,
 a sworn promise to Isaac,
 and confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
 to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying,

**People: "To you I will give the land of Canaan
 as your portion for an inheritance."**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Romans 8:28, 31-39

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² Since God's own Son was not withheld from us but given up for all of us, will God not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
 we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAYER #2046

Womb of Life

***Womb of life, and source of being, home of every restless heart,
in your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start.
We, your children, gather 'round you, at the table you prepare.
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter, we are nurtured by your care.***

***Word in flesh, our brother Jesus, born to bring us second birth,
you have come to stand beside us, knowing weakness, knowing earth.
Priest who shares our human struggles, Life of Life, and Death of Death,
Risen Christ, come stand among us, send the spirit by your breath.***

***Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend.
When our memory fails, remind us whose we are, what we intend.
Labor with us, aid the birthing of the new world yet to be,
free of servant, lord, and master, free for love and unity.***

***Mother, Brother, Holy Partner; Father, Spirit, Only Son:
We would praise your name forever, One-in-three, and Three-in-one.
We would share your life, your passion, share your word of world made new,
ever singing, ever praising, one with all, and one with you.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Darren Cushman Wood

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 #2224

Make Us One

***Make us one, Lord, make us one; Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let your love flow so the world will know we are one in you.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Brandon Wallace

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Assurance

J.N. Beck

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine; Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all my life long.

*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 Romans 8:1-2, 14-17

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *St. Paul's Greatest Hits No. 1: Live Confidently*

Darren Cushman Wood

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #369 *Blessed Assurance*

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. (Refrain)

*THE BLESSING

Leader: May the Spirit bear witness in your hearts
that you are God's beloved children,
and may all things work together
according to God's purposes for your good.

People: Alleluia!

We are more than conquerors through Christ who loves us.

Leader: And may nothing separate us from the love of God
we have in Christ Jesus our Lord.

People: Amen.

POSTLUDE

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

arr. R. Hobby

Scan to sign up for our newsletter:



The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God by David and Michael Came in celebration of their eighth wedding anniversary, and in honor of the love and support of North Church.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday School Kickoff
Today at 9:45am

Children's Choirs resume
Today, following the 11:00am service

Talk on Christian Nationalism by Dr. Andrew L. Whitehead
Today, 4:00pm

LGBTQ Dinner
September 17, 6:00pm at Garage Food Hall

Farmers Market
September 19, 4:00 — 6:00pm

Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy Bible Study
Wednesdays, starting September 25, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Home Repairs for Good Work Team
September 28

Accessible DEI and Belonging; Vital Aspects of Congregation and
Community,
September 29, 4:00-5:30pm

**This week's worship
leaders:**

Darren Cushman Wood
Senior Pastor

Brandon Wallace
Minister of Christian Education

John Hague, James Horton
& Allen McCormack

Audio Visual

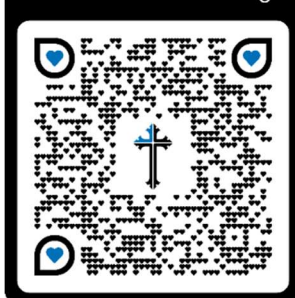
Mark Gilgallon

Music Director

Heather Hinton

Organist

Scan for Online Giving



You can give online to the Fall Mission Offering through September.
The offering supports the MLK Center's children and youth programming.