



September 22, 2024 – Livestream  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Darren Cushman Wood

SPOTLIGHT ON MINISTRY

Farmers Market Wrap-Up

Danita Hoskin,  
Community Outreach Liaison

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*

arr. D. Wagner  
Cathedral Ringers, Kelley & Jeff Warbinton, directors

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O God, Trinity of Love, open our eyes

**People: to see your beauty in one another.**

Leader: Open our ears

**People: to hear your truth in one another.**

Leader: Open our hearts

**People: to receive your love from one another.**

Leader: Open our lips

**People: to sing your praises with one another.**

\*OPENING HYMN #384

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

***Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.***

***Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.***

***Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.***

*Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God,  
whose love governs the universe,  
strengthen our hands to do your work of justice,  
widen our hearts to share your gift of mercy,  
and open our eyes to see your vision of peace  
for all people and for the glory of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Sovereign,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM

*O Love*

E. Hagenberg  
Cathedral Singers

O Love that wilt not let me go I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.

\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Psalm 36:5-10

Brandon Wallace

Leader: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the clouds.

**People: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,  
your judgments are like the great deep;  
O Lord, you save humans and animals you save!**

Leader: O God, how precious is your steadfast love!  
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

**People: They feast on the abundance of your house,  
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

Leader: For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light we see light.

**People: O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,  
and your salvation to the upright of heart!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Evan Cahoon

First Lesson

1 John 4:4-16

<sup>4</sup> But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. <sup>5</sup> Those people belong to this world, so they speak from the world's viewpoint, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

<sup>9</sup> God showed how much God loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the one who removes our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and God's love is brought to full expression in us.

<sup>13</sup> And God has given us the Spirit as proof that we live in Christ and he in us. <sup>14</sup> Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. <sup>16</sup> We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF PRAYER #408

*The Gift of Love*

***Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.***

***Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.***

***Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.***

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 #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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Abide with Me*

arr. V. Stephenson  
Cathedral Ringers,  
Kelley & Jeff Warbinton, directors

\*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

1 Corinthians 13

<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup>For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup>but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup>And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*St. Paul's Greatest Hits No. 2: Love Boldly*

Darren Cushman Wood

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION #111

*How Can We Name a Love*

***How can we name a Love that wakens heart and mind,  
indwelling all we know or think or do or seek or find?  
Within our daily world, in every human face,  
Love's echoes sound and God is found, hid in the commonplace.***

***If we awoke to life built on a rock of care  
that asked no great reward but firm, assured, was simply there,  
we can, with parents' names, describe, and thus adore,  
Love unconfined, a father kind, a mother strong and sure.***

***When people share a task, and strength and skills unite  
in projects old or new, to make or do with shared delight,  
our Friend and Partner's will is better understood,  
that all should share, create, and care, and know that life is good.***

***So in a hundred names, each day we all can meet  
a presence, sensed and shown at work, at home, or in the street.  
Yet every name we see, shines in a brighter sun:  
In Christ alone is Love full grown and life and hope begun.***

\*THE BLESSING

Leader: Go forth to be a grace-full people.

**People: We will bear all things, believe all things,  
hope all things, endure all things.**

Leader: May the compassionate Christ  
fill you with a deeper faith, a higher hope, and a greater love.

**People: Alleluia. Love never ends.**

Leader: May God  
who is the Lover, the Beloved, and the Love,  
abide with you now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

POSTLUDE

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

arr. D. Schelat

*The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God and  
in celebration of Bob Schilling's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on Oct. 1, by Rita Schilling.*

**Upcoming Events:**

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

Young Adult Dinner  
September 25, 7:00pm, Garage Food Hall

Home Repairs for Good Work Team  
September 28

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

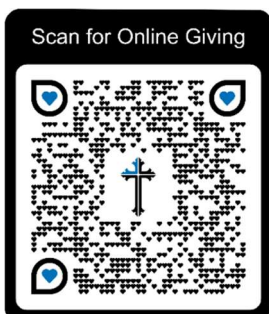
Family Movie Night  
October 4, 5:30 – 8:00pm

Fall Festival with hymn sing and chili cook-off  
October 6, 5:30-7:30 pm

Sophia Sunday School Class new study, "Thrive" by Jennifer Cowart

**This week's worship  
leaders:**

Darren Cushman Wood  
*Senior Pastor*  
Brandon Wallace  
*Minister of Christian Education*  
Evan Cahoon  
*Liturgist*  
James Horton  
& Eric Russell  
*Audio Visual*  
Mark Gilgallon  
*Music Director*  
Heather Hinton  
*Organist*



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

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