



July 19, 2026 – Livestream
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jill Moffett

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

arr. R. G. te Velde

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come and walk the journey of faith with all who hunger for God.

People: Bread of Heaven feed us now.

Leader: Come and find the peace of Christ who conquers all our fears.

People: Strong Deliverer, be our strength and shield.

*OPENING HYMN #127

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.

***Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.***

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;

let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.

***Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.***

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;

death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee;

I will ever give to thee.

OPENING PRAYER

O God our Refuge,

who always give us more than we desire or deserve,

lead us into your rest.

Protect us from discouragement and despair,

and provide us with the strength to persevere

in the way of Jesus Christ, our life and our hope. Amen.

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger while trav'ling through this world below;
Yet there's no sickness, toil, nor danger in that bright land to which I go.
I'm going there to see my Father, I'm going there no more to roam.
I'm just a going over Jordan, I'm just a going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather o'er me, I know my way is rough and steep;
Yet golden fields lie out before me, where weary eyes no more shall weep.
I'm going there to meet my mother. She said she'd meet me when I come.
I'm just a going over Jordan, I'm just a going over home.

I want to wear a crown of glory when I get home to that good land.
I want to shout salvation's story in concert with the heav'nly band.
I'm going there to meet my Savior, to sing His praise forevermore.
I'm just a going over Jordan, I'm just a going over home.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE #854

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

Leader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

**People: You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

Leader: You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

**People: Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it altogether.**

Leader: You pursue me behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

**People: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high, I cannot attain it.**

Leader: Whither shall I go from your spirit?

People: Or whither shall I flee from your presence?

Leader: If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

**People: If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

Leader: If I say, "Let only darkness cover me,
and the light about me be night,"

**People: even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

Leader: Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts;

**People: and see if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶ This is what the Lord says—Israel’s Ruler and Redeemer, the Lord of heavenly hosts:

“I am the First and the Last;
there is no other God.

⁷ Who is like me?

Let anyone step forward and prove to you their power.
Let them do as I have done since ancient times
when I established a people and explained its future.

⁸ Do not tremble; do not be afraid.

Did I not proclaim my purposes for you long ago?
You are my witnesses—is there any other God?

No! There is no other Rock—not one!”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAYER #418

We are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder

***We are climbing Jacob’s ladder; we are climbing Jacob’s ladder,
we are climbing Jacob’s ladder; soldiers of the cross.***

***Every round goes higher, higher; every round goes higher, higher,
every round goes higher, higher; soldiers of the cross.***

***Sinner, do you love my Jesus? Sinner, do you love my Jesus?
Sinner, do you love my Jesus? Soldiers of the cross.***

***If you love him, why not serve him? If you love him, why not serve him?
If you love him, why not serve him? Soldiers of the cross.***

***We are climbing higher, higher; we are climbing higher, higher,
we are climbing higher, higher; soldiers of the cross.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Brandon Wallace

THE LORD’S PRAYER #895

MUSICAL RESPONSE #349

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

***Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in his wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of his glory and grace.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

It is Well

K. DiMarco
Jill Moffett, soprano

Grander earth has quaked before, moved by the sound of his voice,
and seas that are shaken and stirred can be calmed and broken for my regard.

Refrain - And through it all, through it all, my eyes are on you,
and through it all, through it all, it is well,
and through it all, through it all, my eyes are on you,
and it is well with me.

Far be it from me to not believe even when my eyes can't see,
and this mountain that's in front of me will be thrown into the midst of the sea. (Refrain)

So let go my soul and trust in him. The waves and wind still know his name.
So let go my soul and trust in him. The waves and wind still know his name.

And it is well with my soul, it is well with my soul,
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul. (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

Genesis 28:10-19a

¹⁰ Meanwhile, Jacob left Beersheba and traveled toward Haran. ¹¹ At sundown he arrived at a good place to set up camp and stopped there for the night. Jacob found a stone to rest his head against and lay down to sleep. ¹² As he slept, he dreamed of a stairway that reached from the earth up to heaven. And he saw the angels of God going up and down the stairway.

¹³ At the top of the stairway stood the Lord, and said, "I am the Lord, the God of your grandfather Abraham, and the God of your father, Isaac. The ground you are lying on belongs to you. I am giving it to you and your descendants. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be as numerous as the dust of the earth! They will spread out in all directions—to the west and the east, to the north and the south. And all the families of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants. ¹⁵ What's more, I am with you, and I will protect you wherever you go. One day I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have finished giving you everything I have promised you."

¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I wasn't even aware of it!" ¹⁷ But he was also afraid and said, "What an awesome place this is! It is none other than the house of God, the very gateway to heaven!"

¹⁸ The next morning Jacob got up very early. He took the stone he had rested his head against, and he set it upright as a memorial pillar. Then he poured olive oil over it. ¹⁹ He named that place Bethel (which means "house of God").

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Chutes and Ladders

Darren Cushman Wood

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #2234

Lead on, O Cloud of Presence

***Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come,
in wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.
Our slavery left behind us, new hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.***

***Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, though wandering, for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.***

***Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.
We pray our sons and daughters may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's demand.***

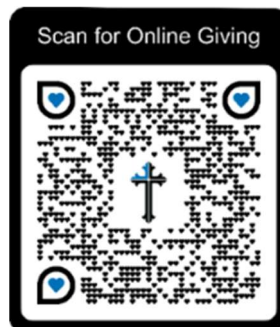
*THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Allegro in G

J. Hawes

*The altar flowers are given for the glory of God and
in celebration of Kaitlin Willbanks and Daniel Pearcy's wedding on July 18, 2026.*



Upcoming Events:

LGBTQ Dinner
July 21, 6:00pm, AMP at 16 Tech

Farmers Market
Thursdays from 4-6pm: July 23; Aug 6 & 20; Sept 3

MLK Block Party
August 1, 3:00 – 7:00pm

Scan to sign up for our newsletter:



Today's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood
Senior Pastor
Jill Moffett
Pastor of Community Formation
Brandon Wallace
Minister of Christian Education
John Hague
Allen McCormack
James Horton
Audio Visual
Theo Hicks
Director of Music
Heather Hinton
Organist