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September 20, 2026

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bob Gross

Music Director: Terry! Dietert

Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba

Video: Richard Tremarello

Liturgist: Randene Wick

Welcome to Christ Church! We are so glad you are here this morning! Whether you are a "first-timer," a regular, or somewhere in between, it is a joy to have you here with us this day. May you be blessed by God's Word in worship today! If you are a **first-time visitor**, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the offering plate, and then make your way to the Chapel (in the back) after worship where we have a small gift for you.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Give to God Our Immortal Praise

Held

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

All: Our feet are standing within your gates, O God!

One: For years, generations have gathered in this place to seek God's face.

All: We come today to join our voices with those who came before us.

One: Whether you have been here every week, or are returning after a long absence:

All: Welcome home. Let us worship God together!

*WE ALL SING *Come Thou Fount of Boundless Welcome* Rev.David Wheeler
(sung to the tune NETTLETON—the tune for "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing")

Verse 1

Come,
Thou Fount of boundless welcome,
tune our hearts to sing Your grace;
every life and every story
finds in You a sacred place.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
flow through those once cast aside;
in Your love we claim our stories—
fear and shame no longer hide.

Verse 2

O to grace how fierce and faithful,
breaking chains of fear and shame;
healing wounds from church and culture,
speaking life in love's own name.
Bind us now to one another,
make us strong and make us brave;
send us out to live Your welcome,
love more boldly, wide as grace.

Verse 3

God of covenant and promise,
sign of hope across the sky,
call us into deeper justice,
where no child is cast aside.
Till all people live in freedom,
till all know their sacred worth,
we will sing and work for
welcome—
love alive in all the earth.

*OPENING PRAYER

One: Let us pray together.

All: Loving God, You are our dwelling place in all generations. We praise You for bringing us back together to this holy ground. Thank You for the cloud of witnesses who built this sanctuary, maintained this ministry, and passed down the faith. As we remember our history today, open our hearts to Your ever-present Spirit, and inspire our future. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: I invite you to pass the peace of Christ to those near you, in whatever way you are most comfortable.

*Response

God Welcomes All

John Bell

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

GIFT OF MUSIC

Clap Your Hands

Sanctuary Singers

SCRIPTURE READING

Zephaniah 3:14-17

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

"Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival."

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:16-19

Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down; they cannot rise;
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
Do not remember the former things
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

SERMON

"Homecoming"

Pastor Bob

*WE ALL SING

Find Us Faithful

#497

*STATEMENT OF FAITH

United Church of Canada

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PASTORAL PRAYER

- Please pray for **Nancy K** who is experiencing severe back pain
- Pray for **Kathy B of Mary of Magdala** as she navigates her health
- Please pray for **Michael K's sister Susan**
- Prayers for LaRee's friend **Debbie & family as her husband** just went into Hospice
- Continued prayers for **Joan A's grandson, Blair**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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
debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the
Kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

CALLING FOR OUR BEST

One: Let us show our gratitude for our heritage by
investing in our future. Let us give generously to
support the ongoing work of God in this place.

SCAN TO DONATE



OFFERTORY *Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Sanctuary Singers

*WE ALL SING *Doxology* tune: Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God, above you heavenly hosts,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: Let us pray.

**All: God of abundance, take these gifts and use them to
keep this church a beacon of hope, a sanctuary for the
weary, and a home for all who seek You. Amen.**

*WE ALL SING *Forward Through the Ages* (see next page)

Heb. 11; 1 Cor. 12

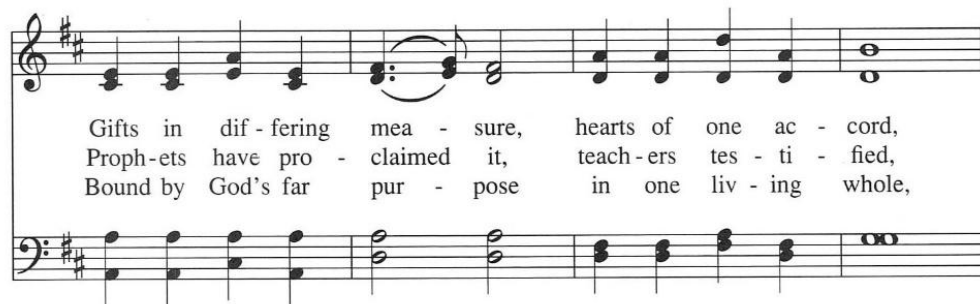
Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1908; alt.



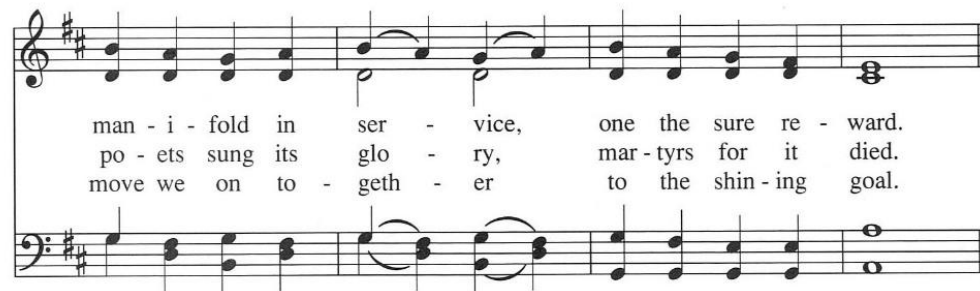
1 For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,
2 Wide grows God's do - min - ion, reign of love and peace;
3 Not a - lone we con - quer, not a - lone we fall;



move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine;
for it we must la - bor, till all striv - ings cease.
in each loss or tri - umph, lose or tri - umph all.



Gifts in dif - fer - ing mea - sure, hearts of one ac - cord,
Proph - ets have pro - claimed it, teach - ers tes - ti - fied,
Bound by God's far pur - pose in one liv - ing whole,



man - i - fold in ser - vice, one the sure re - ward.
po - ets sung its glo - ry, mar - tyr - s for it died.
move we on to - geth - er to the shin - ing goal.

Refrain

For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,

Move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine.

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

The Trees of the Field

#710

*POSTLUDE

How Firm a Foundation

Held

THIS WEEK at CHRIST CHURCH

Today

Homecoming Sunday & Tailgate Picnic

Tuesday, Sept 22

Quilting, 9:30am

Council Meeting, 6pm

Thursday, Sept 24

Handbells, 9:30am

Counters: Danette Volz, Renolle Volz

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unbinding the Gospel Book Study | Beginning on **Monday, Sept 28**, we will gather in the parlor at **1pm**. Our sessions will last about 60 minutes. Books will be available in early September. They cost the church \$15, if you would like to reimburse the church for the cost of your book. Please sign up on the list at the Lenox Street door. When you have your book, please read chapters 1 & 2 before the first meeting.

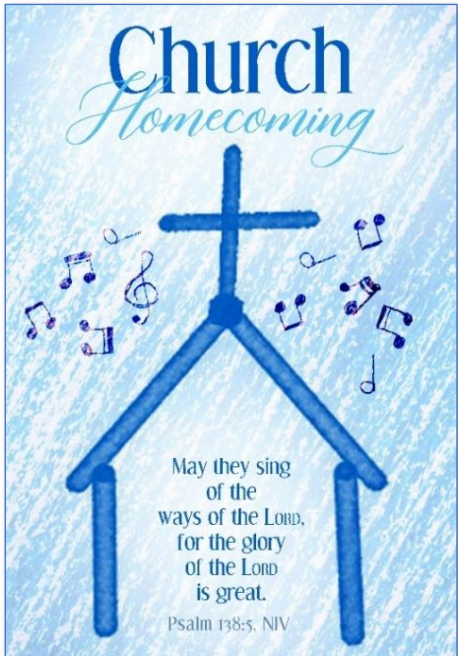
Laundry Ministry | There has been an amazing response to the laundry ministry. There are bins of hygiene products that have been donated as well as quarters and laundry supplies. Through the project it is apparent there is a continuing need for the laundry ministry. (The bagged lunches will not be continued at this time.)

Sept 1–Nov 22 (every other Sunday) there will be a need for two Soap Hosts. Please sign up to volunteer for one or more Sundays using the SignUp Genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EAEAB2CA2FAC25-65588418-dilaundry#/>

THANK YOU! | Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our school supply collection. We also received donations from the community in our outdoor collection box. We collected a total of 46 backpacks, 13 glue sticks, 9 packs of pens, 19 packs of pencils, 28 packs of colored markers, 29 packs of crayons, 55 spiral notebooks, 19 bottles of glue, 13 packs of colored pencils, 18 erasers, 5 scissors, 5 rulers, 1 highlighter, 9 pencil sharpeners, 13 pencil boxes, 6 packs of loose-leaf paper, 43 folders, 4 binders, and 4 boxes of Kleenex. These will be donated to a Milwaukee Public School in great need of school supplies. We are blessed to have such a caring congregation helping children in our community. With grateful hearts, *The Social Concerns Committee*

Divine Intervention Warming Room Update | Based on data from November to March, it confirmed that DI just doesn't have the capacity for overnight warming any longer, and yet the Divine Intervention mission of supporting and serving those experiencing homelessness is still at the center of DI's ministry. In the coming months, there will be a continued focus on the needs of the homeless and exploring other ways to support these individuals. More information will be shared as the new focus evolves.

Monthly Activity	August	YTD
Contributions & Other Income	\$7,124	\$127,013
Expenses	\$17,859	\$158,874
Budgeted Amount	\$18,051	\$144,413
<i>Last week's offering: \$2,549</i>		



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