



Pastor: Rev. Tara Tetzlaff
Music Director: Terryl Dietert
Guitar | Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba
Video: Richard Tremarello
Liturgist: Chuck Terlinden

August 10, 2025

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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.

**Please stand as you are able*

Prelude

How Firm a Foundation - Held

Words of Welcome

*Song of Welcome *What Does the Lord Require of You*

1 What does the Lord require of you?
What does the Lord require of you?

2 Justice, kindness,
walk humbly with your God.

3 To seek justice, and love kindness,
and walk humbly with your God.

*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 50)

One: The mighty one, God the Holy One, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Many: Out of the kindom, the perfection of beauty, the splendor of creation, the wonder of ages, God shines forth.

One: The mighty one, God the Holy One, speaks and calls to the heavens above and to the earth in order to judge the people.

Many: Out of justice and righteousness, God shines forth.

One: The mighty one, God the Holy One, speaks and receives our thanksgiving, honor, and praise.

Many: Out of our witness, worship, and testimony, God shines forth.

*Prayer for Transformation and New Life

O God, our hands are full and stained with the fruit of devastation and despair. We lament a world filled with genocide and war even as we acknowledge our complicity and inaction with rampant evil in the world. Too often, we benefit from our neighbor's suffering and remain complacent and compliant when the cost of loving our neighbor seems to address illusions of safety and security. Move us to action. Arm us with hearts bursting with love. Equip us as agents of the kindom's peace. Assure us that when we seek forgiveness through our actions as well as our words, your grace will meet us. Amen.

Words of Grace

*Opening Hymn

Gather Us In

Hymn #649

Story on the Steps

from The Book of Belonging

A Very Good Song: Genesis 1-2 (Khavah is also called Eve)

Words by Mariko Clark, Pictures by Rachel Eleanor

First Reading: Luke 12:32-40 (CEB)

“Don’t be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights in giving you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to those in need. Make for yourselves wallets that don’t wear out—a treasure in heaven that never runs out. No thief comes near there, and no moth destroys. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be too.

“Be dressed for service and keep your lamps lit. Be like people waiting for their master to come home from a wedding celebration, who can immediately open the door for him when he arrives and knocks on the door. Happy are those servants whom the master finds waiting up when he arrives. I assure you that, when he arrives, he will dress himself to serve, seat them at the table as honored guests, and wait on them. Happy are those whom he finds alert, even if he comes at midnight or just before dawn. But know this, if the homeowner had known what time the thief was coming, he wouldn’t have allowed his home to be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Human One is coming at a time when you don’t expect him.”

Second Reading: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 (CEB)

The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear the word of the Lord,
you rulers of Sodom;
listen to the instruction of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!
“The multitude of your sacrifices—
what are they to me?” says the Lord.
“I have more than enough of burnt offerings,
of rams and the fat of fattened animals;
I have no pleasure
in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.
When you come to appear before me,
who has asked this of you,
this trampling of my courts?
Stop bringing meaningless offerings!
Your incense is detestable to me.
New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—
I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.
Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals
I hate with all my being.
They have become a burden to me;

I am weary of bearing them.
When you spread out your hands in prayer,
I hide my eyes from you;
even when you offer many prayers,
I am not listening.

Your hands are full of blood!

Wash and make yourselves clean.
Take your evil deeds out of my sight;
stop doing wrong.

Learn to do right; seek justice.

Defend the oppressed.

Take up the cause of the fatherless;
plead the case of the widow.

"Come now, let us settle the matter,"
says the Lord.

"Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.

If you are willing and obedient,
you will eat the good things of the land;
but if you resist and rebel,
you will be devoured by the sword."

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Sermon

Rev. Tara

Hymn of Response

What Does the Lord Require of You

(see above)

Prayers of the People

(see Weekly Newsletter for details)

- For those experiencing trials or ongoing health concerns, including:
Nicole, those with medical issues, Pearl, Bart, Nichola, Tom, Dulce, Laurel D, Bill D, Blair, Joe, Kozy, Stacy, Karl

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

We honor Creator by offering our gifts of service, action, compassion, financial and material resources, and energy to the continuing ministry of the Body of Christ. Let us give with divinely-inspired and empowered generosity trusting God to provide for all needs, individually and collectively.

SCAN TO DONATE



Offertory *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* - Smith

***Doxology** Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

***Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God, as we bring our gifts, we ask for you to receive them and endow us with wisdom and discernment to be good stewards of your abundant blessings. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** *O For a Closer Bond with God*

1 O for a closer bond with God,
A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine up on the road
That leads us to the Lamb!

2 Where is the blessedness we knew
When first our hearts were stirred?
Where is the soul-refreshing view
Of Jesus Christ, the Word?

3 Return, O holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of peace!
Forgive our sins and help us learn
In Christ to find release.

4 The dearest idols we have known,
As we our ways pursue;
Help us to tear them from your throne,
And worship only You.

5 So shall our bond be close with God,
Calm and serene our frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads us to the Lamb.

Announcements

*Words for the Journey

ONE: People get ready.

MANY: We are dressed for love.

ONE: People get Ready.

MANY: We are dressed for service.

ONE: People get ready.

MANY: We are dressed to shine Christ's light.

*Benediction Song *Whatever is True* by Andra Moran & Christopher Grundy

(Twice through, then repeat chorus)

Whatever is true
Whatever is kind
Whatever is noble
Keep this in mind
Know you are held
God's love keeps you close

No matter what,
Know you are loved
Wherever you go

CHORUS

Open your heart,
Open your eyes
Love for a stranger,
Love for a neighbor
Seeking the Christ

Postlude

Sonata in G - Telemann

Sources: CCLI License #1905256 | *Worship & Rejoice Hymnal*, Hope Publishing 2001 | *The New Century Hymnal*, The Pilgrim Press

NOTES

MISSION MINUTES | Living into the Promise | Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 | There was a woman in my rural congregation who every year would win a handful of blue ribbons for the flower arrangements entered at the county fair. I was told that every flower used came from her garden, which everyone described as “magical.” I had to see this for myself.

One day I stopped by and there she was watering lush pink peonies. I was in awe by the beauty all around and admitted to her that nothing ever grew for me. I even confessed my lack of faith, doubting that a seed would grow each time I covered it with dirt.

She looked at me with shocked eyes, scolding me that my lack of faith was the very thing preventing me from a beautiful garden. “Remember, pastor, faith is in things hoped for and in things unseen,” she said, citing scripture from Hebrews.

As she filled her rusty watering can from the just as rusty hand pump, she shared with me her secret to gardening. “I put every seed, sapling and bulb into the ground, trusting that the beauty I cannot see will burst forth,” she said. Could it be that faith was all I needed to turn my pitiful flowerbeds into a scene worthy of Monet to paint?

When this master gardener quoted Hebrews to me, I was reminded of all God’s children who “by faith” stepped forward to do things that seemed impossible. By faith, Noah built an ark. By faith, Abraham left his home for a new one. By faith, Sarah, his wife, bore a son even though her childbearing days were far behind her. By faith is how they lived, trusting God with a beautiful future even when that future could not be seen.

Today, that magical garden is gone, as are all the artistic flower arrangements that came from it. The hands of the one who planted each seed “by faith” is now tending to heavenly gardens.

As for me, I am trying my best to have faith in the seeds I now plant. For without faith, where would all the great gardens be? Without faith, where would all the great testimonies of ordinary people doing extraordinary things be? And who knows. Maybe someday the roll call of faith will read, “By faith, a pastor finally grew a beautiful flower.”

God of beauty and grace, help us live more “by faith” this day, holding on always to hope and trusting in all things unseen. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Monthly Activity	July	YTD
Contributions	\$6,205	\$63,367
Total Income	\$13,910	\$102,914
Expenses	\$12,803	\$114,909
Budgeted Amount	\$14,867	\$104,066

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