

GATHERING

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your might.**

Beloved, let us love one another.

We love because God first loved us.

Let us worship God.

*OPENING PRAYER

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly cares, but to love that which is above, and even now, while we live among transient things, to hold fast to those things that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

WELCOME

*HYMN # 289

LLANGLOFFAN

O God of Every Nation

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord our God, you call us to proclaim the gospel, but we remain silent in the presence of evil. You call us to be reconciled to you and one another, but we are content to live in separation. You call us to seek the good of all, but we fail to resist the powers of oppression. You call us to fight pretensions and injustice, but we sit idly by, endangering the lives of people far and near. Forgive us, O Lord. Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage and strength to be reconciled to others; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come, O Holy Spirit, and open our hearts to your word. Open our ears to your Wisdom as she sings to us of your goodness. Open our mouths so that we may breathe in your hope and breathe out your love. Open our minds that we might be challenged by your call. Open us up, so that we may be opened up for the sake of the world. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 (p. 448, Old Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 124

If the Lord had not been on our side, let Israel now say;

if the Lord had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us;

then would they have swallowed us up alive in their fierce anger toward us;

then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over us;

then would the raging waters have gone right over us.

Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. Amen

SECOND READING: Mark 9:38-50 (p. 45, New Testament)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

*HYMN(see insert)

AURELIA

Perhaps You Have Been Chosen

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Belhar Confession):

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells; that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

MOMENT FOR MISSION
OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

You Are My All In All/Fairest Lord Jesus

D. Jernigan

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen!**

OLD HUNDREDTH

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
LORD'S PRAYER

(see insert)

SENDING

*HYMN # 419

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

REPTON

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE



ORDER OF WORSHIP
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEASON OF PEACE

September 30, 2018
Presbyterian Church in Needham