



Outdoor Worship in the Grove

Worship Service

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 4, 2021 10:15 AM

Worshippers present for in-person worship are invited to sing and read responsively. Masks are optional.

*The congregation is invited to read and sing text and lyrics printed in **bold type**.*

Gathering Music

"Your Holiness Surrounds Me"

Welcome

Announcements

Prelude

"God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

Call to Worship

Gathering Hymn

(Hymnal No. 338)

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

**O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!**

**America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with *brotherhood
from sea to shining sea!**

**O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved,
and mercy more than life!**

**America! America! God mend thine every flaw;
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!**

**O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!**

**America! America! May God thy gold refine
till all success be nobleness and every gain divine!**

Litany for the Nation

One: O God, before whom all nations are but a drop in the bucket: your justice is like rock, and your mercy like pure flowing water. Judge and forgive us. If we have turned from you, return us to your way; for without you we are a lost people. From brassy patriotism and blind trust in power;

All : Deliver us, O God.

One: From public deceptions that weaken trust, from self-seeking in high political places, from moral failings, from dishonesty that refuses to repent of where we have rejected you and thereby our own birthright;

All: Deliver us, O God.

One: From divisions among us of class or race, from wealth obtained at the expense of others and at the cost of one's own integrity, for the demand for more and mine, for poverty that feeds on food of bitterness;

All: Deliver us, O God.

One: From neglecting individual rights, from pushing self-interest above the common good; from overlooking the hurt, the imprisoned, and the needy among us;

All: Deliver us, O God.

One: From a lack of concern for other lands and peoples; from narrowness of national purpose, from failure to foster your peace on earth;

All: Deliver us, O God.

One: Talk sense to us so that we may put a stop to cruelty, idleness, name-calling;

All: Great God, renew us.

One: Inspire us to seek the lost, protect the innocent, care for the sick, the grieving, the restless, the confused, the vulnerable;

All: Great God, renew us.

One: Draw us together as one people who do your will, so that our land may be a light to nations, leading the way to your promised kingdom, which is coming among us;

All: Great God, renew us.

One: Show us that there is no law or liberty apart from you, and let us serve modestly, as devoted people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen and Amen.

Choral Response

*There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.
If our love were but more simple, we would take him at his word,
And our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.*

Passing of the Peace (*air waves, no touching*)

Children's Sermon

Prayer for Understanding

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 5: 1-5, 9-10

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 12: 2-10

Reflection

“Fireworks”

Holy Communion



We invite you at this time to participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion. We encourage those of you at home to use your own elements, bread and fruit of the vine. We will share the elements together.

Communion Hymn

pg. 5 (Hymnal No. 331)

“God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”

(Verses 1 & 4)

Moment of Gratitude

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sending Hymn

pg. 6 (Hymnal No. 318)

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

Blessing

331 God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

(optional)

1 God of the a - ges, whose al-might - y
 2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
 4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
 past. In this free land by thee our lot is cast.
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense.
 way. Lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day.

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
 Be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay:
 Thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease.
 Fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
 thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
 Thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

This hymn was generated by 19th-century centennial celebrations: the words by the Declaration of Independence and the music by the adoption of the United States Constitution. Despite these origins, no specific nation is mentioned in this hymn of praise and prayer for peace.

In Christ There Is No East or West 318

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in

him no south or north, but one great fel - low -
 high com - mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the
 e'er your race may be. All chil - dren of the
 him meet south and north. All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

This text formed a very small part of an elaborate Christian missionary pageant in the early 20th century, yet it has endured while the grander aspects of that production have faded away. It is set to a simple 19th-century tune that does not get in the way of its message.



Flowers today are given by Greg Bitler to the glory of God, in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Wilmer T. Bitler.

Participants in today's service: Greg Bitler (worship leader); Jennifer Henning, Karen Tinstman (deacons); Eloise Bennett, Kessey Kieselhorst, Steve Lewis (music); Rev. Bob Andrews (children's sermon); Scott Lawvere (audio/video); Joy Christian (organist); Rev. Bob Andrews, Pastor Emeritus (pulpit supply)

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- O Beautiful for Spacious Skies: text by Katharine Lee Bates, 1893; music by Samuel Augustus Ward, 1882.
- God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand: text by Daniel Crane Roberts, 1876; tune by George William Warren, 1892.
- In Christ There Is No East or West: text by John Oxenham, 1908; tune by Alexander Robert Reinagle, 1836.

From hymnary.org:

- There's a Wideness in God's Mercy: Text by Frederick W. Faber, 1854. Tune by Lizzie S. Tourjée, 1875. Public domain.

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