

**THE WALPOLE ECUMENICAL SERVICE**  
**SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 (RAIN DATE: SEPT. 15, 2024) – 10:00 AM**  
**THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

<b>PRELUDE</b>	<i>TBD</i>	Anna Dunn
<b>WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>		
<b>INTROIT</b>	<i>TBD</i>	Anna Dunn

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Based on Psalm78)

*Those who are comfortably able, please stand*

*Leader:* I love God, who has heard my voice and my supplications.

*People:* **God's ear was inclined to us, therefore we will  
call on the Holy One as long as we live.**

*Leader:* The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.

*People:* **Then we called on the name of God:  
We beseech thee, save our lives!**

*Leader:* Gracious is Our God, righteous, and merciful.

*People:* **What shall we render to the Holy One for all God's bounty?**

*Leader:* God delivered my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

*All:* **We shall walk before our God in the land of the living.**

OPENING HYMN

When morning gilds the skies

The Worshipping Church #99

Those who are comfortably able, please stand

Anna Dunn

1. When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries,  
 2. Does sad - ness fill my mind? A sol - ace here I find,  
 3. The night be - comes as day, when from the heart we say,  
 4. Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di - vine,

may Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Or fades my earth - ly bliss?  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! The powers of dark - ness fear  
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this th'e - ter - nal song

to Je - sus I re - pair, may Je - sus. Christ be praised!  
 My com - fort still is this, may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 when this sweet chant they hear, may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 through all the a - ges long, may Je - sus Christ be praised!

WORDS: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Würzburg, 1828; tr. Edward Caswall, 1854  
MUSIC: Joseph Barnby, 1868

LAUDES DOMINI  
6.6.6.6.6.

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*Those who are comfortably able, please stand and say in unison*

**God of all, we seek the guidance of your Word in this fellowship of Christ's body. We yearn for inspiration and the touch of your Holy Spirit. We hope for wisdom, to help us find where you are calling us. Help us discover passion for your service and joy in the communion of the saints. Meet us and fill our hearts with your love, here and now, as we open ourselves to you in this silence...**

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*Those who are comfortably able, please stand*

*Leader:* May the peace of God be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** (if children are with us)

The Rev. Richard Malmberg

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

**THE HEBREW BIBLE LESSON:** Isaiah 35:4-7a

First Congregational Church

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

*Reader:* Word of the Lord

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

A Reading from the letter of James.

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL:** Mark 7:24-37

Deacon St. John's Walpole

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup>but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he

said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

*Reader:* For the Word in Scripture, for the Word among us, for the Word within us:

*All:* **Thanks be to God!**

**SUNG RESPONSE:** Psalm 119:105 *(two times)*

Anna Dunn

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

**SERMON**

The Rev Richard Malmberg & The Rev Fred Chisolm

SERMON HYMN *Christians, rise and act your creed*

New Century Hymnal #537

*Those who are comfortably able, please stand*

Anna Dunn

1 Chris - tian, rise and act your creed; let your  
2 Hearts a - round you sink with care; you can  
3 Of - fer oth - ers hope and joy, and God's  
4 Come then, law di - vine, and reign: faith that  
prayer be in your deed; Seek the right, per - form the  
help their load to bear; You can bring in - spir - ing  
wor - ship your em - ploy; Giv - ing thanks in hum - ble  
doubt as - sails in vain, Per - fect love be - reft of  
true, raise your work and life a - new.  
light, strength - en them to do the right.  
zeal, learn - ing all God's will to feel.  
fear, born in heaven and ra - diant here.

*Francis Albert Rollo Russell was a writer on scientific subjects and a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. This hymn was first published in the Pilgrim Hymnal (1904). The tune originated with a text used for the Feast of the Holy Innocents.*

Tune: INNOCENTS 7.7.7.7.  
The Parish Choir, 1850

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lay Reader from St. John's

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;  
**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest;  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. Especially Bob Rhodes, Sally Bogardus, Dean Prentiss, Bob and Maryann Lindberg, Bill Sudsbury, Matt Pinson, George Jeffrey, Sara Crosby, Chuck Shaw, Jessie McKenzie, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Linda Smith, Brianna Miller, Linda Jeffrey, Rebecca Cooper, Ann Rogers, Avery, Stephen Hill, Doug Barnes, Dave Adams, John Tuttle, Carole Hill, Mary Lou Montgomery, Keith Sayers, Peggy Pschirrer, Marilyn Blake, Church of the Woods, Canterbury, Our sister church in Chiredzi, Zimbabwe, Gina Nason, Becky Hubbard, and Carol Lamp. *The people may add their own petitions.*

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## CALL TO OFFERING

The Rev. Richard Malmberg

## OFFERTORY MUSIC

Vladimir Odinokikh

## DOXOLOGY

1982 Hymnal #380 v3

*Those who are comfortably able, please stand*

Vladimir Odnokikh

\*3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*Please say in unison*

**God, we bring these gifts we received from you, and offer a portion with our gratitude. Bless our work, and our meditations so we may be joyfully employed in service to all your people, and so glorify your name. All this we pray in Christ. Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Those who are comfortably able, please stand; all say in unison*

**Sovereign God, we confess that we have not lived the lives of which we are capable. We have gifts that we have not used, and gifts we have misused. We have**



not loved you with our whole hearts, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have turned our backs on our sisters and brothers in need, and in doing so, shut the doors of our hearts to the love you offer them through us. Forgive us we pray. Cleanse and renew our hearts, that we might resume the path of discipleship with courage, strength and endurance, even as we offer you the silent confessions of our hearts...

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE (PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION)**

Amen. God's steadfast love never ceases, and by God's Grace, we can renew our hearts and lives by earnestly confessing our sins. We are invited to take wisdom from the past, yet we are liberated from its bondage. By God's amazing Grace, we have new and abundant life. Let us therefore celebrate, nourish and strengthen the loving bonds our community here at Christ's table.

### **INVITATION**

It is in the communion of shared concern, symbolized in the breaking of this bread that we recognize the Christ who lives in our midst. Therefore come --each one and all of you, come. This is your meal. You are invited. Your presence is requested, needed and honored. We are strengthened by your sharing, and we miss you when you are absent. Let there be no barriers of mind or doctrine to our communion, for we are one in the company of all who hunger. Come to share the gifts of life.

### **COMMUNION PRAYER**

Please say in unison

**Gracious God, we now dedicate these elements to become sacraments of ministry, signs of your work and witness among us. Do bless this bread and this fruit, and in the common sharing of them bless us all by the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. In this meal we remember Christ's sacrifice and his call that we also might serve, we embrace each other along his pathways, and we look with hope for the transformation of the world in his love. May we, your servant community, become ourselves bread for the journey and fruit for the spirit among all peoples and powers of the earth. Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN

Come, risen Lord

1982 Hymnal 305

Those who are comfortably able, please stand

Vladimir Odinokikh

1 Come, ris - en Lord, and deign to be our guest; nay,  
 2 We meet, as in that up - per room they met; thou  
 3 One bo - dy we, one Bo - dy who par - take, one  
 4 One with each o - ther, Lord, for one in thee, who

let us be thy guests; the feast is thine;  
 at the ta - ble, bless - ing, yet dost stand:  
 Church u - nit - ed in com - mun - ion blest;  
 art one Sa - vior and one liv - ing Head;

thy - self at thine own board make man - i - fest in  
 "This is my Bo - dy"; so thou giv - est yet: faith  
 one Name we bear, one Bread of life we break, with  
 then o - pen thou our eyes, that we may see; be

thine own Sac - ra - ment of Bread and Wine.  
 still re - ceives the cup as from thy hand.  
 all thy saints on earth and saints at rest.  
 known to us in break - ing of the Bread.

Hear now the words which have taken a scattered and wandering people and made of us a church. Hear now the old story which, in our sharing, becomes new once again.

Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, blessed, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: "This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after they had eaten, he took the cup and said, "This is my blood of the covenant, poured out for you. This also, do in remembrance of me."

We come to this table, not because we must, but because we may. We come, not because we are worthy, but because we all stand in need of God's healing love.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

## THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*Serving will be done on trays*

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Please remain seated and pray in unison*

**We give thanks, O Lord of Life, that you have refreshed us at your table and refashioned us in your hope for community. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world as Christ's witnesses with courage and in peace. All this we pray in the name of your son, our friend and teacher, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1982 Hymnal #390

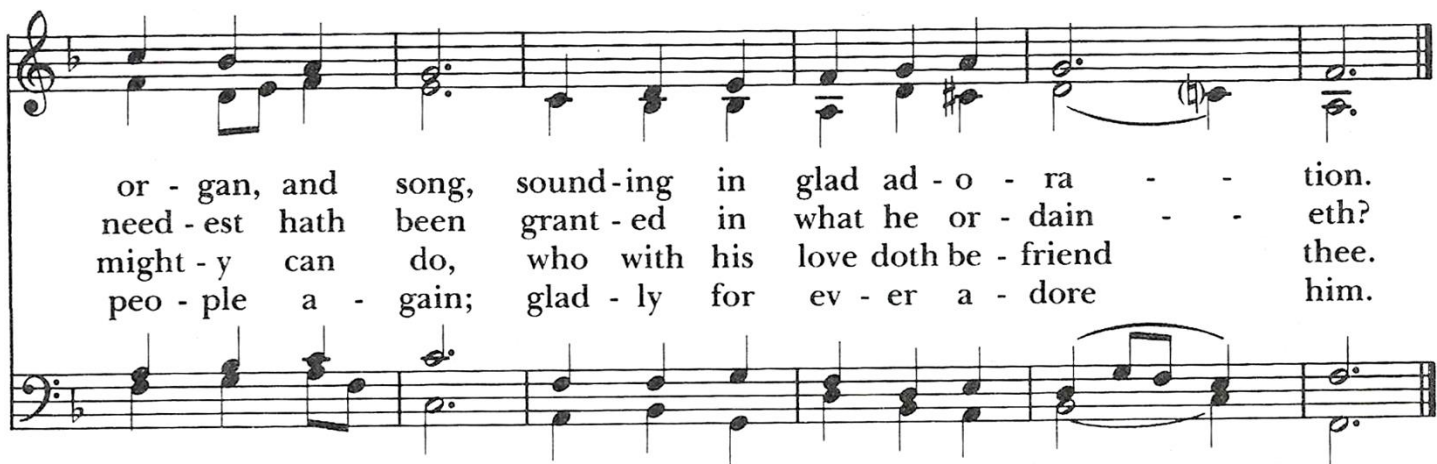
Those who are comfortably able, please stand

Vladimir Odinokikh

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -  
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
 reign - - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his  
 fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall  
 dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,  
 saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou  
 ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -  
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - - tion.  
 need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - - eth?  
 might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.  
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680); tr. *Hymnal 1940*, alt.  
 Music: *Lobe den Herren*, melody from *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665;  
 harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971) 14 14. 478

**BENEDICTION**

The Rev. Richard Malmberg

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE: Go now in Peace**

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.  
 Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.  
 Go now in love, and show you believe.  
 Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
 God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Allegro from concerto in G-major by A. Vivaldi*

Vladimir Odnokikh

***PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR – THERE IS PLENTY FOR EVERYONE***

## WORKING TOGETHER

Clergy	The Rev. Fred Chisolm	St. John's Episcopal Church
	The Rev. Richard Malmberg	First Congregational Church
	The Rev. Deacon Bill Clark	St. John's Episcopal Church
Musicians	Anna Dunn	First Congregational Church
	Vladimir Odinkikh	St. John's Episcopal Church
Zoom Director	Paul Looney	First Congregational Church
Lay Reader	Bill Reed	St. John's Episcopal Church
	Nancy Sloan	First Congregational Church
Altar Guild	Deacons	First Congregational Church
Flowers	TBD	First Congregational Church
Ushers	Al Sparks & Josh Beer	St. John's Episcopal Church
	TBD	First Congregational Church
Coffee Hour	Alison Brule	St. John's Episcopal Church
	Bonnie Woodward	First Congregational Church

First Congregational Church  
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