

LARGE PRINT

# Worship Celebration

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023 + 9 AM

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## We Gather as God's Children

### Words of Welcome

Prelude

*Prelude in B flat Major*

Frederic Chopin

### + Call to Worship

We gather today to remember and proclaim that we are God's people.

**We are God's people! God's presence is among us!**

Like Moses, we seek an encounter with God's goodness.

**God, show us your goodness**

**that we may glorify you in all that we do.**

God's goodness passes by us every day

in the gracious gifts of creation

and in the faces of our neighbors.

**God, help us notice your goodness**

**in everything and everyone that we meet.**

When we notice God's goodness all around us,

we recognize this truth: all things are God's.

**Let us give to God the things that are God's! Amen.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2023*

+ Hymn

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*

UMH 64

### + Opening Prayer

*Loving, living God, be among us now.*

*Show us your ways. Guide our steps.*

*Live in us, that we may be people*

*of steadfast hope and powerful giving.*

*Help us hear your words,*

*challenging us to give you all the things that are yours.*

***Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from you,  
gifts to be shared in service and love.***

***Holy One among us,***

***help us be a holy people who receive your word with joy  
and live your message with love. Amen.***

Written by Mary Scifres, on the Ministry Matters website, <http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/blog/entry/1779/worship-elements-october-16-2011>. Reposted on the re:Worship blog, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/10/call-to-worship-prayer-proper-24a.html>.

## **We Grow in God's Word**

Leader: With disciples of every time and place,  
let us listen for the word of God among us.

**People: *Our ears and hearts are open.***

### **First Lesson - Exodus 33.12-23 (NRSVUE)**

<sup>12</sup> Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' <sup>13</sup> Now if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider, too, that this nation is your people." <sup>14</sup> He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." <sup>15</sup> And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not bring us up from here. <sup>16</sup> For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

<sup>17</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have asked, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." <sup>18</sup> Moses said, "Please show me your glory." <sup>19</sup> And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD,' and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. <sup>20</sup> But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live." <sup>21</sup> And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, <sup>22</sup> and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; <sup>23</sup> then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

The word of God for the people of God.

***Thanks be to God.***

## **Second Lesson - 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10 (NRSVUE)**

**1** Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup>For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

God for the people of God.

***Thanks be to God.***

**Sermon**

*A Testimony from Eric Wang*

**Hymn**

*Blessed Assurance*

UMH 369

**Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer**

**Opportunities for Ministry and**

**Invitation to Give our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory Anthem**

*How Great Thou Art*

Craig Courtney

**Doxology**

UMH 95

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

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

*We trust you, Lord God,  
to multiply the blessings these gifts represent,  
as we pour out your love and grace  
on those who long to hear your word to them,  
to see your power at work within them,  
to feel your comfort beside them,  
through the generous gifts of your Spirit. Amen.*

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## We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

*Lord of the Dance*

UMH 261

### + Benediction

Go now as those who have found favor in the sight of God.

Be imitators of Jesus Christ

and an example to all of the life of faith.

*To the world in which we live, we give our love and service,  
and to God, we give all that we are and all that we shall be.*

And may the glory of God's goodness be revealed to you;

May the grace and peace of Jesus Christ take root in you;

And may the inspiration of the Holy Spirit fill you with joy.

*We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,*

*In the name of Christ. Amen.*

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<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/10/commission-benediction-proper-24a.html>.

Postlude

*Toccata in E minor*

Johann Pachelbel

*Our service of worship is ended.  
Our worship through service now begins.*