

Order for Worship
Travels, Trips, and Journeys: A Service of Word and Song
August 29, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Pastorale – Guy H. Eldridge

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Summer often brings vacations, travels, and opportunities to step out of the busyness of our daily lives.

We visit with family and friends, encounter new places and experiences, and enjoy rest and relaxation.

As this summer unofficially comes to a close,
we contemplate this journey of planning and preparing, setting out, being on the road,
traveling when the way becomes hard and the joyful homecomings that await us.

Scripture tells us of many travelers and journeys.

Abraham set off with a promise and little else.

**The Israelites began their forty-year trek with excitement
but soon complained and grumbled when the way became difficult.**

Mary and Joseph had little control over their destination or departure date.

The magi rerouted their trip after visiting Herod.

Jesus and his disciples wandered through towns and countryside.

Paul ventured out with zeal and purpose, finding welcome in some places and hostility in others.

Whatever our travels of life, God remains our steadfast guide and companion.

We gather today to worship this God, who is travels alongside us on all the roads of this life.

GATHERING SONG ELW 618 Guide me ever, great Redeemer

Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore, feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
shield me with your mighty arm, shield me with your mighty arm

Text: William Williams; tr. Williams Williams and Peter Williams
Music: John Hughes
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GREETING

The God who created space and time,
journeyed with us in human form,
and travels with us still,

be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, our beginning and our end, you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star you led the magi to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us when we travel. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where you dwell in glory with our Lord Jesus Christ and the life-giving Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PLANS AND PREPARATIONS

READING: Ephesians 6:10-17

At the conclusion of the reading...

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

DIALOGUE AND PRAYER

What should we pack as the journey begins?

What should we bring along?

The word of God to illumine our path.

The light of Christ to show us the way.

The gifts of the Spirit to share with those we meet.

The love of God to be our compass and guide.

Let us pray. God of our salvation,

you are the source of all our beginnings.

As we plan for our journeys,

strengthen us through your word.

Orient our lives toward Christ,

the bright Morning Star.

Send your Holy Spirit as our companion along the way.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

HYMN ELW 514 O Word of God Incarnate

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

Oh, make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold
to bear before the nations your true light, as of old;
oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims by this their path to trace,
till, clouds and darkness ended, they see you face to face.

Text: William W. How

Music: Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch

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SETTING OUT

READING: Genesis 12:1-9

At the conclusion of the reading...

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

DIALOGUE AND PRAYER

God called to Abraham:

“Go! Set out! And I will bless you.”

God calls to us:

“Come! Feel the water on your head!

Hear the promise of new life.

Spread my word through all the world.”

Let us pray. God of beginnings,
**you called Abraham and Sarah,
leading them to unknown places.
In the waters of baptism, you claim us
and send us out as your children.
Wash us with your grace
and shower us with your Spirit,
so that we journey into the world
overflowing with your love.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen**

RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE

I’m Going on a Journey – Edward V. Bonnemere
Kevin Schanely, tenor

Text: Kenneth D. Larkin

Text and music c. 1994 Amity Music

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ON THE ROAD

READING: Mark 1:35-39

At the conclusion of the reading...

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

DIALOGUE AND PRAYER

On the Galilean road, Jesus stopped to reflect and pray.

We, too, long for rest and a balm for our souls.

Seeing those in need, Jesus healed, taught, and fed.

**We are called to live as servants,
loving our neighbors as ourselves**

Holding the children close, Jesus blessed them;

for to such as these the kingdom of heaven belongs.

On the road to Bethlehem, the true light came into the world.

**And the Word became flesh and lived among us
and we have seen his glory.**

Let us pray. God of incarnation,
**you entered our world as a tiny baby
and you journey with us
through each stage of our lives.
Be with our children and youth
who are growing in your love.
Guide us all as the years and decades pass.
Send us in the light of your grace and truth.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

HYMN ELW 326 Bless now, O God the journey

Bless now, O God the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.

Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way;
your hope burns though the terrors, your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound;
together we are seeking the road where faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan
Music: Welsh tune, 19th cent.
Text c. 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.
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WHEN THE WAY BECOMES HARD

READING: 1 Kings 19:1-8

At the conclusion of the reading...

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

DIALOGUE AND PRAYER

We sit like Elijah alone in the wilderness.

“It is enough, O Lord.”

The troubles of life overwhelm our spirits.

“It is enough, O Lord.”

The way seems too dark; the valleys, too deep.

“It is enough, O Lord.”

God rescues us from despair and grants us strength.

“You are beloved, my precious child.”

Let us pray. God of our sorrows,
**when we grieve a loved one, face an illness, or lose a job,
the road seems long, lonely, and treacherous.
Comfort us in our despair,**

Text: George Herbert
Music c. Stainer & Bell Ltd.
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CREED

With people of faith in every time and place, we profess our faith together.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

O God, we give you thanks for those who have traveled the path of faith: for Abraham and Sarah, who trusted in your promise; for Mary and Joseph, who acted according to your word; for Paul, who spread the good news of Christ. Lead us also in your way, your truth, and your life.

God of the journey,

hear our prayer.

Watch over all who travel. Grant rest and joy for their spirits. Be with bus drivers, flight attendants, pilots, road crews, and all who strive to make our travels safe and our homecomings joyful. God of the journey,

hear our prayer.

You sent your Son into the messiness of our world. Smooth the pathways between people and nations, that together we will move toward your justice and peace. God of the journey,

hear our prayer.

You walk with us on all the paths of life. Be with those facing hardship this day: the grieving, the poor, the lost, the sick (*especially*). Hold them in the palm of your hand. God of the journey,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.



**A Celebration of Life Service
for Pastor Charles Eiss
will be held Saturday, September 4th at 11am.**

**Lunch will follow. Masks are required.
The service will also be available via zoom.**

If you have and/or, are interested in participating in the musical life of St. John's, please contact me, preferably via e-mail to let me know what your specific interests are, e.g. choir, praise team, handbells, instrumental or vocal solos, etc. It's important that I have plenty of information for planning purposes, especially in light of social distancing protocols. You can reach me at bmod7@comcast.net. Thank you! Ben

NO Food Collection for Open Link Labor Day Weekend—Sept 4th

LAST Chance to Order Hoagies this year! Place your order by Thursday, September 9th. Please contact Elaine Keller by phone (215.262.5366) or email elaineakeller@comcast.net before Sept 9th for a Sept 16th pick up. If you have any questions about the hoagies or our trips, please contact Elaine.



**The Book Club is reading *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig.
Pick up a copy and join us at the firepit or zoom in
on Tuesday, September 14th at 7pm.**

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

Worship Attendance 8/22/2021 – In Person 40, Zoom – 32 households		
Giving Amounts	Total received between 7/26-8/15/2021	Amount Needed between 7/26-8/15/2021
General Fund	12,608.83	\$11,216
Building Fund	\$322.14	
<i>Weekly average is based on the 2021 budget. A weekly building fund amount needed is no longer reported as the building fund has been used for the mortgage, which has been paid off. All other building expenses are included in General Fund budget and giving. The above numbers include electronic giving. Mint duty is being done every other week for the time being.</i>		
Capital Campaign Activity Update		
Capital Campaign Contributions Pledged		\$ 260,000.00
Capital Campaign Contributions received between 7/26-8/15/2021		\$170
Capital Campaign Contributions received to date		\$ 251,149.65

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers: Alex Kunkel, Bob Moran, Betsy Rodger, Nancy Terpoilli, Brian Allebach, Charles Krupp, Jean Leister, Kenny Nace, Tom Ciesielka, Ann Brown Hager, Alyssa Gegan, David Mounts, Ann Lewis, Carolyn Iris, Melissa Snyder, Sandy Umstead, Theresa Hasson, Renaud Fix, Theresa Gross, David and Linda Kratzer, Leah Crater, Leanne Kratzer, Steve Keyser, Bev Fretz, Jim McNally, Richard Mariner, Sydney Crossin, Florence Van Dyke and Donna Derstine.

Bible Workshop

Saturday, October 2 9:00-10:30 AM

Do you have a student in grades 2-4 who hasn't received a Bible from St. John's? Then we invite you to be part of our Bible workshop. A parent/guardian is expected to attend the workshop with each student.

Visit the link below to register your student for the workshop by September 26.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084FA8AD2CAAFD0-bible>

First Communion Workshop

Saturday, November 13 9:30-11:30 AM

Do you have a young person in grades 2-6 who hasn't received communion yet but is interested in doing so? Then this workshop is for you! This workshop will prepare students to receive Holy Communion, which they will do within worship on Sunday, November 21.

A parent/guardian is expected to attend the workshop with each student.

Visit the link below to register for the workshop by Sunday, November 7

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084FA8AD2CAAFD0-first3>

YPO

Fall Kick-Off around the Fire Pit Sunday, September 19 7 PM

Join Pastor Becky at the fire pit to discuss YPO activities for this year.

Bring a chair – munchies and drinks will be provided.

Confirmation Info

Confirmation Classes for students entering 7th grade will begin this fall. First and second year confirmation classes meet on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM, starting September 1st.

If you have a student in 7th or 8th grade who is interested in being part of this fall's confirmation class, please reach out to Pastor Becky.

JOIN THE A/V TEAM— Do you or someone you know have an interest in video or audio technology? We could use more help on the A/V team on Sunday mornings. No special skills are required, we will teach you everything you need to know. If you are interested in giving this part of our ministry a try, please contact Colleen Carlin (colcarlin@hotmail.com; 215-813-4776) or Brian Gegan (briangegan@amsentrp.com; 215-429-5768). Please consider joining the team.

Several Dates are available—Please sign up TODAY!

Meal Train for Brian & Jennifer Allebach

A meal train, to provide a meal on Saturdays, has been started. To access the meal train sign-up, see what dates are available and find out all the pertinent information, see the weekly email or contact the church office.

Brian also loves to receive cards - so feel free to drop one in the mail to their home address, which is: Brian Allebach, 1096 Soffa Road, East Greenville, PA 18041.

Thank you for your tender care for this family at this challenging time.

For the remainder of the summer, St. John's will be taking up a collection of items needed by the Martin Luther School in Plymouth Meeting. Since YPO has not been able to visit with the children who reside there as result of the pandemic, we hope you'll join us in this collection. The items below will be collected thru Sunday, September 5 and will then be taken to the school for the children to enjoy. Please drop all items in the bins in the narthex and parlor.

Items needed are art supplies, which includes crayons, markers, colored pencils and sketch pads, and journals that are NOT spiral bound.

You can support St. John's every time you shop at Amazon—and it costs you nothing!

Simply go to smile.amazon.com to select St. John's Evangelical Lutheran, Green Lane as your supporting charity. Then all purchases you make through smile.amazon.com (same prices as amazon.com) will donate a percentage on to St. John's. If you use Amazon's mobile app, you will have to go into the app to turn Amazon Smile on. Just go into the Amazon app, click on settings, then click on AmazonSmile and follow the prompts to select St. John's and turn on AmazonSmile so all your purchases count! For more information, call the church office!

Pastoral Care Volunteers Needed Peter Becker Community, Harleysville will be holding a three hour Abiders training in September 2021.

Abiders provide a reassuring, comforting presence to persons in the last hours of their life who would otherwise die alone. Attending training does not obligate you to become a volunteer. Your time of service can be very flexible. Vaccination for COVID 19 is a requirement. Contact Director of Pastoral Care, Merlin Hedrick at 215-513-6817 or mhedrick@peterbeckercommunity.com