

Order for Worship
September 26, 2021
God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

WELCOME

PRELUDE Come, Labor On – Michael Burkhardt

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LIGHTING OF THE TRINITY CANDLE

St. John's is a community that is

Ignited by Spirit, Growing in Love.

We begin our worship in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

HYMN God's Work, Our Hands

God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold,
Bless God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

God's work our voice: singing together, praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold

Music David N. Johnson

Text c. 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music c. 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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LITANY FOR GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY

Our hands have created war and terror and have drawn lines between friends and enemies. Now we search for lasting peace and radical reconciliation.

Renew our hands for your work, O God, today and every day.

Our hands have created hunger and poverty, homelessness and unemployment. Now we long to be fed, sheltered and given new opportunities.

Renew our hands for your work, O God, today and every day.

Our hands have polluted your creation and misused our resources. Now we seek clean air, soil, water and abundant life for all living things.

Renew our hands for your work, O God, today and every day.

Our hands have broken homes, communities and nations with fear, abuse and violence.

We plead for safety and wholeness.

Renew our hands for your work, O God, today and every day.

Our hands have brought discrimination and oppression based on race and class. Now we look for unity in diversity and the freedom to live in holy community with one another.

Renew our hands for your work, O God, today and every day.

Your hands created the world, and your life redeems it. Even now we see your reign of peace among us.

For our hands and your work, O God, we praise you today and every day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, **I give you my hands to do your work. I give you my feet to go your way. I give you my eyes to see as you do. I give you my tongue to speak your words. I give you my mind that you may think in me. I give you my spirit that you may pray in me. Above all, I give you my heart that you may love in me your Father and all mankind. I give you my whole self that you may grow in me, so that it is you, Lord Jesus, who lives and works through me. In Jesus' name. Amen**

SONG OF REFLECTION ELW 360 Love Consecrates the Humblest Act

Love consecrates the humblest act
And haloes mercy's deeds'
It sheds a benediction sweet
And hallows human needs

Love serves and willing stoops to serve;
what Christ in love so true
has freely done for one and all,
Let us now gladly do!

Text: Silas B. McManus

Music: attrib. Lucius Chapin

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+ WORD +

PSALM 19:7-14

The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can detect one's own offenses?

Cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Mark 9:38-50

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.

³⁸John said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” ³⁹But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹“For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 985 Let Us Enter In



1 Let us en-ter in to the song of thanks - giv - ing and free - dom.
2 Let us en-ter in to the place where our God has pre - ced - ed.
3 Let us en-ter in to the heart of a world that is bro - ken.



Let us en-ter in to the long line of peo - ple in need.
Let us en-ter in to the face of the fear and the pain.
Let us en-ter in to the start of a hope we can share.



Let us en-ter in to the strong mind that God is still liv - ing.
Let us en-ter in to the grace of the love when it's need - ed.
Let us en-ter in to the part where we call one an - oth - er



Heal - ing, for - giv - ing— Let us en - ter in.
Death is de - feat - ed! Let us en - ter in.
sis - ter and broth - er. Let us en - ter in.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

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STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe in God, our Creator, who at the beginning of time made us to be sons and daughters: who, after we separated ourselves from God, still gave us hope in the promise of the Word.

I believe in God, our Savior, Christ Jesus, who is one with the Creator. Who at the beginning of time called us to be sons and daughters; who loved us so much that he limited himself to life as a human; who was born at Bethlehem, lived in Galilee, walked in Palestine and Israel; who through his life and death and resurrection in this world reunited us with God, bring to us, in his person, God's all encompassing love and peace.

I believe in God, our Counselor, who is one with the Creator and the Christ. Who from the beginning of time gathers us to be sons and daughters; who feeds us with wisdom, strength, faith and love so that we may come back to God restored to the wholeness for which we were created.

MUSICAL OFFERING Blessed Jesu, at Thy Word – J.S. Bach

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, we pray,
hear us when we call.

Receive these and all our prayers, Gracious God. We pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

People of God,
you are Christ's body,
bringing new life to a suffering world.
The holy Trinity, one God,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 825 You Servants of God

You servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name, all victorious, of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!

Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore and give him his right,
all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

Text: Charles Wesley

Music: attrib. Johann Michael Haydn

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

Allegro Maestoso – G.F. Handel, arr. David N. Johnson

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OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

Worship Attendance		
9/19/2021 – In Person 50, Zoom - 18 households		
Giving Amounts	Total received between 8/29-9/11/2021	Amount Needed between 8/29-9/11/2021
General Fund	\$13,249.11	\$11,216
Building Fund	\$307.76	
<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 8/29-9/11/2021		\$110
Capital Campaign Contributions received to date		\$ 251,339.65

God's Work Our Hands



God's work.
Our hands.

TODAY! Following worship we will celebrate ***God's Work, Our Hands Sunday***. We will offer two ways for the congregation to use their hands to do God's work on this day.

1) ***Community Food Collection***

As we've done in past years, we will be doing a collection of food items to support the food pantry at Open Link. Bags will be distributed into a number of local community neighborhoods on Sunday, September 19. The bags will then be picked up on September 26 and all the items collected will be displayed for worship on Harvest Home Sunday, October 3.

How can you participate?

- Individuals and families are needed today after worship to go back out to those local neighborhoods and pick up the bags that have been filled and left out for us. A map will be provided. Once food has been collected, it is unloaded at church, unpacked, expiration dates checked and displayed in the sanctuary. The time commitment will be from the end of worship (approx. 10:45 AM) till 12:30 PM.
- Individuals will also be needed on Sunday, October 3 to package up all the donations for delivery to Open Link's food pantry. The time commitment is from the end of worship (approx. 10:45 AM) until 11:45 AM.

2) *Cleaning Bags*

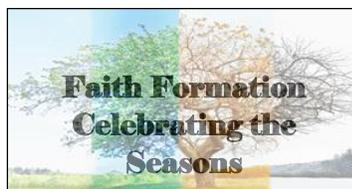
Another project we'll be doing this year for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is putting together cleaning bags for Keystone Opportunity Center to distribute to families that are moving into a new home to give them some of the necessary supplies they need. The great thing about this project is you can do it all at home – do your shopping, package all the items in a reusable grocery bag and then bring them to church on Sunday, September 26 for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday or on Sunday, October 3 for Harvest Home Sunday.

What all goes in a Cleaning Bag?

Well, it's up to you – you can pick as many of the items listed as you feel comfortable including, we just ask that you package all the items in a reusable shopping bag* (not plastic grocery bags or paper grocery bags). *the church has some in the parlor

Items that can be included: Sponges or scrubbies, 1 roll of paper towels, Dish soap, Laundry soap, Lysol wipes, Trash bags (13 gal size), Toilet bowl cleaner and brush, Liquid spray cleaner, 4 pack of toilet paper

Even in a pandemic, we can continue to find ways to use our hands to do God's work in our local community. We hope you'll come out this September to use your hands to do God's work with us!



Sunday School has begun—Sundays 8:45 to 9:15 for pre-K through 5th grade. All participants, please wear a mask. The theme this year is “*Celebrating the Season: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall... God is with us through them all!*”

Connections (grades 6, 7 and 8) and High School Youth Class (grades 9-12) will meet on the first Sunday of each month, **beginning in October 3rd**. We hope you can join! Questions? Please email Jamie Hovanec at jlhovanec78@gmail.com.

St. John's Faith Formation needs your help. Would you like to teach Sunday School, Connections or the High School Youth Class? Everything will be prepared for you and ready to go on the day you teach.

Sunday School will be held every Sunday 8:45-9:15. We are hoping to run two classes (Pre-K-1st and 2nd-5th) You can teach every week, every other week or once a month, whatever works with your schedule.

Connections (grades 6-8) and the High School Youth Class (grades 9-12) will meet on the first Sunday of each month beginning in October. If you would like to teach either of these

classes, it would be great for one teacher to volunteer for the once a month duration, but we are flexible.

If you can't teach, perhaps you can donate supplies. We need: Hand sanitizer, spray cleaners, wipes, sketch pads (any kind will work... they are about \$5 at Walmart 6x9 or 8.5x11), Canvas tote bags and Oriental Trading, Michaels or Amazon gift cards.

Contact Jamie Hovanec jlhovanec78@gmail.com, if you have any questions or if you are interested in helping this year.



St. John's is hoping to offer the Trunk or Treat again this fall on Sunday, October 24 2-4 PM

Before we advertise this event, we want to make sure we have enough trunks to make it worthwhile.

If you are willing to create a trunk display for Trunk or Treat on Oct 24, please email pbarndt@barndtagency.com by October 5th.



Meal Train for Brian & Jennifer Allebach

Several Dates are still available—Please sign up TODAY!

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.

Bible Workshop THIS Saturday, October 2 8:00-9:30 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>



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