

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday, November 21, 2021 | Rooted in Love

Please silence all electronic devices.

Gathering Music

J. Noel Lance

Greeting

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Psalm

Dr. Foust

Psalm 84:1-4

Hymn of Response

Chancel Choir

WONDRIOUS LOVE

O God, of light and love, light and love, light and love

O God, of light and love, light and love.

O God, of light and love who reaches from above to rescue us  
when we are in need, are in need, to rescue us when we are in need.

Call to Worship

Rev. Allison Benfield

ONE: We see light, hope, and joy;

**ALL: We bring heart, soul, mind, and body;**

ONE: We share blessings and fears;

**ALL: We bring faith and doubt.**

ONE: With all that we are and all that we have,

**ALL: Let us worship God.**

Prayer of Submission

Rev. Benfield

**\*Hymn of Praise**

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*

Chalice Hymnal No. 4, verses 1 & 4

NICEA

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;

holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty;

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Dick Hester

Genesis 16:1-16

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children. She had an Egyptian slave-girl whose name was Hagar, and Sarai said to Abram, "You see that the Lord has prevented me from bearing children; go in to my slave-girl; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave-girl, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife.

He went into Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. Then Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my slave-girl to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!" But Abram said to Sarai, "Your slave-girl is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her. The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And he said, "Hagar, slave-girl of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She

said, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai." The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her."

The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude." And the angel of the Lord said to her, "Now you have conceived and shall bear a son; you shall call him Ishmael, for the Lord has given heed to your affliction. He shall be a wild ass of a man, with his hand against everyone, and everyone's hand against him; and he shall live at odds with all his kin." So, she named the Lord who spoke to her, "You are El-roi"; for she said, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?" Therefore, the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

ONE: Through these written words of scripture, we listen for the living word of God.

**ALL: Those who have ears to hear, let them hear.**

**Choral Anthem**

*I Believe*

Chancel Choir

Mark Miller

I believe in the sun even when it's not shining.  
I believe in love even when I don't feel it.  
I believe in God even when God is silent.

**Message**

*From Desolation to Hope*

Lia Benton

**Hymn**

*Amazing Grace*

NEW BRITAIN

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
we have already come;  
'tis grace hath brought us safe thus far,  
and grace will lead us home.

The Lord has promised good to us,  
His Word our hope secures;  
He will our shield and portion be,  
as long as life endures.

**A Litany of Stewardship and Hope**

Dr. Foust

ONE: Holy, Holy, Holy, God of amazing grace, like Hagar, we are recipients of Your faithfulness. You allow us to see that You see us and help us redeem some of the most painful and lonely times in our lives as sacred moments.

**ALL: The roots of our faith commitments grow in Your love nourishing us with hope.**

ONE: God of amazing grace, like Hagar, you are the One who sees us and finds us in the wilderness days of our lives calling us to be both reconciled and reconcilers through forgiveness and humility.

**ALL: The roots of our faith commitments grow in Your love nourishing us with purpose.**

ONE: God of amazing grace, like Hagar, you allow us to see Your active presence along our journey.

**ALL: The roots of our faith commitments grow in Your love bearing the fruit of Your character in our lives so we can nourish the world with the ministry of Jesus.**

ONE: God who blesses us beyond our imagination, as we continue to follow Jesus as charter members of St. John's second century, help us help all the somebodies within our reach.

**ALL: Living God, we offer these gifts of commitment to You because our lives are rooted in Your love. Amen.**

**Special Music**

Help Somebody

Jessica Borgnis & J. Kevin Gray

Susan Werner

I got plenty and then some, what do I do now?  
I go out and help somebody, get plenty and then some, too.  
I got a roof over my head, what do I do?  
I go out and help somebody get a roof over their head, too.  
I got supper on the table, what do I do?  
I go out and help somebody get supper on the table, too.  
That's what I do. Cause I got it to give, and when you got enough to  
give away, well it's the only way to live.  
I'm following Jesus, what do I do?  
I go out and help somebody find Jesus, too.

**Commitment Walk**

Congregation

**The Church at Prayer**

Dr. Foust

**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.**

**Prayer Concerns & Celebrations**

Andrew Adair, Shirley Ballard, Katherine Barr, John Bragg (back surgery in December), Betty Fuller, Polly Hull, Barbara Ledford, Tish Philemon, Gene & Carol Poole, Brad Sifford (back surgery in November), Carole Ann Simpson, Don Swofford, Elma Thomas, Dee Turner

Congratulations to Natalie and Durning Moore in the birth of their daughter, Anne Lawrence - "Annie" - and to big brother James in the arrival of his sister on Monday, November 15! Congratulations also to David and Lynn Erdman, the proud grandparents.

**\*Hymn of Commitment**

*Go, Ye Thankful People, Go*

ST. GEORGE WINDSOR

Go, ye blessed people, go. Live a life God's will to show.  
We have brought our gifts today, commitments of our faith displayed.  
God will bless and use them well of God's goodness we must tell.  
Go into the world with grace show to them God's loving face.

**\*Commissioning the Scattered Church**

Dr. Foust

**\*Postlude**

J. Noel Lance