

The Church of the Holy Trinity

Rittenhouse Square

The 20th Sunday *after Pentecost*

11:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II



October 26, 2025

What's Happening This Week:

Morning Prayer is held every weekday at 9:00 am on Facebook.

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sunday, October 26	 11:00 am	Holy Eucharist -20 th Sunday After Pentecost	Church
	12:30 pm	October Vestry Meeting	2 nd Fl. Parish House
	 4:00 pm	Open Hearts Café Meal/Clothing	Centennial Room
Monday, October 27	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
Tuesday, October 28	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
	 3:00 pm	Open Hearts Café Meal/Clothing	Centennial Room
Wednesday, October 29	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
Thursday, October 30	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
Saturday, November 1	 12:15 pm	Healing Eucharist	Prayer Corner
	9 – 1 pm	Mutual Ministry Review	Parish House
Sunday, November 2	 11:00 am	Holy Eucharist-All Saints' Sunday	Church
	 4:00 pm	Open Hearts Café Meal/Clothing	Centennial Room
	 5:00 pm	All Souls Choral Evensong	St. Peter's Church, Old City

SAVE THE DATE: November 9 at 12:45 p.m.

Join us for "A Sabbatical in Pictures"! Turn to the back of the bulletin for more info!

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS

Frank LaMay and Jeannie Welsh, *Lectors*

Andy Gutknecht, *Intercessor*

Margaret Dowling, *Stewardship Speaker*

Connor Gardner, *Acolyte Team*

Richard Spotts, *Assisting Organist*

Monica Heuer, *Usher*

Welcome! We are glad you are with us today.

Our Vivid Vision

This was created in 2022 in collaboration with the Rectors, Wardens & Vestry and is intended to describe where we will be in 3 years.

The church is bursting with life. Outside the building, people are talking, resting, and enjoying the weather. Inside, people are coming and going – staff and volunteers connecting and welcoming. Families, students, working professionals, retirees and neighbors mingle with each other, finding resources they need: safety and support, education, and creative outlets. Visitors and members alike find a place to make a difference and share their gifts with each other. The smell of delicious food wafts through the air as the chefs prepare the community meal for the day. Visitors from all over the world are marveling at the beautiful interior of the sanctuary. Worshipers are laughing, singing, praising, and just enjoying being together. The delicate sounds of violin mingle with the robust organ and the echoes of voices. We are more than just a place on the Square. We are an integral part of the neighborhood.

Core Values

Inclusion/Welcome

We believe that no one should feel left out or alone. We embrace our differences and respect each person within our community. This allows everyone to bring their unique and authentic gifts to further the mission of the church.

Innovation

We are not afraid of trying new things or changing when necessary. If things do not work out, we are open to re-evaluate, learn from our mistakes, and try again.

Collaboration

We listen to and support one another, working and evolving together. We build upon each other's strengths and lift up each other's gifts.

Community Mindedness

Church is not an individual endeavor, but a community experience. We believe that we cannot each succeed or be whole, unless everyone finds success and wholeness.

Culture

Joyful

We are hopeful, optimistic, and have fun together. Being part of this community gives us joy, and our joy spreads to others and makes us want to share joy with them.

Fearless

We are innovative, purposeful and adaptable. We believe that with God all things are possible and that with prayer and connection to God we will always have enough. We are not afraid of trying new things or of failing. We learn from our mistakes. We reach out to others drawing them in, not waiting for them to find us.

Embracing

We love others, because God loves us. This means that we are accepting, welcoming, open, genuine, and empathetic. We speak the truth in love.

Engaged

Our connection to this organization is full of energy. We give without expectation of return. We continuously learn about the community and our neighbors and adapt our connections as needed. We all contribute our time, money and skills to make our community better.

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Please rise in body or spirit.

Entrance Hymn 47

Gott sei Dank

1 On this day, the first of days, God the Fa - ther's Name we praise,
 2 On this day the e - ter - nal Son o - ver death his tri - umph won;
 3 Ma - ker, who didst fa - shion me im - age of thy - self to be,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, may I be dead and bur - ied here with thee;
 5 Thou, who dost all gifts im - part, shine, blest Spi - rit, in my heart;

1 who, cre - a - tion's Lord and spring, did the world from dark - ness bring.
 2 on this day the Spi - rit came with his gifts of liv - ing flame.
 3 fill me with thy love di - vine, let my ev - ery thought be thine.
 4 and, by love in - flamed, a - rise un - to thee a sac - ri - fice.
 5 best of gifts, thy - self be - stow; make me burn thy love to know.

6 God, the blessed Three in One,
 dwell within my heart alone;
 thou dost give thyself to me:
 help me give myself to thee.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Presider Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, —

— and peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, hea-ven - ly King,

al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: — re - ceive our prayer. 6. For you a -

lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen**

THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated.

The First Lesson: Joel 2:23-32

Frank LaMay

Reader A reading from the Prophet Joel.

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame. Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence.

Psalm 65 *Te decet hymnus*

The antiphon is sung once by the choir and then by all. The choir sings the verses, the congregation joining on the verses in **bold**. All sing the antiphon as indicated.



Chant: John Goss



- ¹ You are to be praised, O | God, in | Zion; *
to you shall | vows • be per- | formed in • Je- | rusalem.
- ² To you that hear prayer shall | all flesh | come, *
be- | cause of | their trans- | gressions.
- ³ Our sins are | stronger • than | we are, *
but | you will | blot them | out.
- ⁴ Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your | courts to | dwell there! *
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,
by the | holi- • ness | of your | temple.

Antiphon

- ⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,
O God of | our sal- | vation, *
O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the | seas • that are | far a- | way.
- ⁶ You make fast the | mountains • by your | power; *
they are | girded • a- | bout with | might.
- ⁷ You still the | roaring • of the | seas, *
the roaring of their waves,* and the | clamor | of the | peoples.
- ⁸ Those who dwell at the ends of the earth
will tremble at your | marve- • lous | signs; *
you make the dawn and the | dusk to | sing for | joy.

Antiphon

⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it | very | plenteous; *
the river of | God is | full of | water.

¹⁰ You pre- | pare the | grain, *
for | so • you pro- | vide • for the | earth.

¹¹ **You drench the furrows and smooth | out the | ridges; ***
with heavy rain you soften the | ground and | bless its | increase.

¹² **You crown the | year • with your | goodness, ***
and your paths | over- | flow with | plenty.

¹³ May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for | grazing, *
and the | hills be | clothed with | joy.

¹⁴ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak them- | selves with | grain; *
let them | shout for | joy and | sing.

Antiphon

The Second Lesson: 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

Jeannie Welsh

Reader A reading from Paul's second letter to Timothy.

I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence.

At the introduction to the hymn, please rise in body or spirit to sing

The Sequence Hymn 656

Franconia

1 Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God; the
2 The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring, to
3 he to the low - ly soul will still him - self im - part and
4 Lord, we thy pres - ence seek; may ours this bless - ing be; give

se - cret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's a - bode.
dwell in low - li - ness with us, our pat - tern and our King;
for his dwell - ing and his throne will choose the pure in heart.
us a pure and low - ly heart, a tem - ple fit for thee.

The Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Celebrant Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Reverend John Gardner

Silence may be kept.

Please rise in body or spirit.

The Nicene Creed

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People, Form IV

Andy Gutknecht

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

<i>Leader</i>	Lord, in your mercy
<i>People</i>	Hear our prayer.
<i>Leader</i>	Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.
<i>Leader</i>	Lord, in your mercy
<i>People</i>	Hear our prayer.
<i>Leader</i>	Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.
<i>Leader</i>	Lord, in your mercy
<i>People</i>	Hear our prayer.
<i>Leader</i>	Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially all who have asked for our prayers: Wendy, Jan, Ted, Diane, Glen, Dottie, Rosemary, Cynthia, Nicholas, Todd, Emily, Jessica, Veronica, George, Tracy, Sonrisa, the Gwen and Gwen's Family, Hilda, Wanda, Sally, Sylvia, Lawrence, Ephemera, Chris, Dwana, Chelbie, Raymond, Osinis, Arthea, Kristin, Jenny, Herbert, Barbara; the Brando, Collins, and Williams families give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.
<i>Leader</i>	Lord, in your mercy
<i>People</i>	Hear our prayer.
<i>Leader</i>	We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Carol, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.
<i>Leader</i>	Lord, in your mercy
<i>People</i>	Hear our prayer.
<i>Presider</i>	Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Welcome, Parish Notices, and Blessings

Stewardship Speaker

Margaret Dowling

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Presider Humble and merciful God, you do not require perfection, only a heart that is open. Receive these gifts, not as a sign of our righteousness, but as a humble offering from those who know they need your grace. Teach us again that generosity begins not in pride, but in gratitude—not in proving our worth, but in trusting yours. May what we give today grow into mercy, justice, and joy in the lives of others and in our own. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.** (Luke 18:9-14)

Anthem

Fear not, O land

William H. Harris

*Fear not, O land, be glad and rejoice, for the Lord will do great things.
Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness do spring,
for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.*

Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God.

*The floors shall be full of wheat, and ye shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the Lord your God that hath dealt so wondrously with you. (Joel 2:21-26)*

Please rise in body or spirit.

Offertory Hymn 389

Monkland

1 Let us, with a glad - some mind, praise the Lord, for he is kind:
2 Let us blaze his Name a - broad, for of gods he is the God:
3 He with all - com - mand - ing might filled the new-made world with light:
4 He the gold - en - tress - ed sun caused all day his course to run:
5 The horn-ed moon to shine by night, mid her span-gled sis - ters bright:

Refrain
for his mer - cies ay en-dure, ev - er faith-ful, ev - er sure.

6 All things living he doth feed,
his full hand supplies their need:
Refrain

7 Let us, with a gladsome mind,
praise the Lord, for he is kind:
Refrain

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant May God with you.
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the One who created us.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant God of all power, Sustainer of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
People **Glory to you forever and ever.**

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of Mary his mother, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

The Sanctus S-131

Near

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant And so, Most Gracious God, we who have been redeemed by Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Celebrant God of our kindred and their generation: God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; Sarah, Rebecca, Hannah and Deborah; God and Father of our Savior Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in your Son's name.

People **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Celebrant Accept these prayers and praises, O God, Most Merciful, though Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

All **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

All **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 for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Silence is observed

The Fraction Anthem S-155

Near

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is
sac - ri - ficed for us; There-fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God – Holy Food for Holy People.

Distribution of Communion

If you wish to receive communion, please follow the directions of the ushers and proceed to the altar rail at the front of the church. If you are more comfortable remaining in your pew, we will bring communion to you (please alert and usher). If you prefer a gluten-free wafer or blessing, please let the priest know.

Communion Hymn 670

Song 13

Unison or harmony

1 Lord, for ev - er at thy side let my place and por - tion be,
2 When I come be - fore thy Word, qui - et my anx - i - e - ty;
3 What thy Spi - rit doth re - veal, that may I in faith re - ceive;
4 Is - rael, now and ev - er - more in the Lord Al - might - y trust;
strip me of the robe of pride, clothe me with hu - mil - i - ty.
teach me thou a - lone art Lord, let my heart find rest in thee.
though my doubts I sore - ly feel, thy sure prom - ise I be - lieve.
him, in all his ways, a - dore, wise, and won - der - ful, and just.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please rise in body or spirit.

Dismissal Hymn 506

Finnian



1 Praise the Spi - rit in cre - a - tion, breath of God, life's
2 Praise the Spi - rit, close com - pan - ion of our in - most
3 Praise the Spi - rit, who en - light - ened priests and pro - phets
4 Tell of how the a - scend - ed Je - sus armed a peo - ple
5 Pray we then, O Lord the Spi - rit, on our lives de -
6 Praise, O praise the Ho - ly Spi - rit, praise the Fa - ther,



1 or - i - gin: Spi - rit, mov - ing on the wa - ters,
2 thoughts and ways; who, in show - ing us God's won - ders,
3 with the word; his the truth be - hind the wis - doms
4 for his own; how a hun - dred men and wo - men
5 scend in might; let your flame break out with - in us,
6 praise the Word, Source, and Truth, and In - spi - ra - tion,



1 quick - ening worlds to life with - in, source of breath to
2 is him - self the power to gaze; and God's will, to
3 which as yet know not our Lord; by whose love and
4 turned the known world up - side down, to its dark and
5 fire our hearts and clear our sight, till, white - hot in
6 Trin - i - ty in deep ac - cord: through your voice which



1 all things breath - ing, life in whom all lives be - gin.
2 those who lis - ten by a still small voice con - veys.
3 power, in Je - sus God him - self was seen and heard.
4 fur - thest cor - ners by the wind of hea - ven blown.
5 your pos - ses - sion, we, too, set the world a - light.
6 speaks with - in us we, your crea - tures, call you Lord.

The Dismissal

Presider

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Choral alléluatique n° II (L'Orgue Mystique)

Charles Tournemire

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Healing Prayer – all who wish to receive prayers for healing for themselves, a loved one or even the world, are invited to join a member of the clergy and/or the healing team in the Prayer Corner (to the right of the altar area) after the service.

About this service...

Service: Everything you need for the service is in this bulletin. If you have questions or need assistance, please ask one of the ushers (who handed you this bulletin) or a neighbor in your pew.

Children are always welcome in our worship service and we love to hear their joyful sounds and see their wiggly ways! We have books for all ages and activity bags in the back for children who wish to stay with their families during the service. We also have the “Pew Pen” in the front of the church for those we need a little more space to move around.

Restrooms are located at the front of the church. Walk down the left aisle toward the door with the EXIT sign. Go through the door and turn left. Men’s room is straight ahead, women’s to the right. If you prefer a gender-neutral bathroom, please ask our ushers to show you where this is.

Offering: Halfway through the service you will notice that we pass a plate around to collect the offering. The offerings we give help to support to work this church does, the people who work here, and our programs for the neighborhood. If you wish to help support our amazing programs, you can put something in the plate, text **CHT DONATE to 73256** or using the QR code to the right. You can also sign up to give weekly with REALM (www.htrit.org/give).



Communion: All who are baptized in any Christian tradition are welcome to join us for communion (all ages are welcome). If you prefer a blessing, please let one of the clergy know. We will share the bread and wine at the altar rail at the front of the church. Gluten free wafers are available. If you are unable to come to the front, or prefer to stay in your pew we will bring communion to you.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Nov. 2, 11:00 a.m. All Saints Service

If you would like to add a name, please send to Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner at rgardner@htrit.org.

Nov. 2, 5:00 p.m.

All Souls Evensong at St. Peter’s Church (313 Pine St.)

Nov. 9, 11:00 a.m.

Blessing of Pledges, Marking the End of the Stewardship Campaign

Nov. 9, 12:45 p.m.

Join us for A Sabbath in Pictures! We'll serve a light brunch and photo celebration in the sanctuary on Sunday, November 9 at 12:45 PM. We'll enjoy bagels, pancakes, fruit, and juice while hearing stories and seeing photos from our priests' sabbatical adventures. We'll also share highlights from all the great things our congregation did while they were away. Come for the food, stay for the stories, and help us celebrate being back together again!

Remarks from Andy Gutknecht, Stewardship Campaign

When I was asked to speak about stewardship, I considered a number of different things to talk about and my mind kept coming back to the centrality of worship on Sunday mornings. And then last Sunday we sang one of my favorite hymns, which is number 51 in your hymnal, "We the Lord's people." Every time I sing this hymn, a feeling of incredible gratefulness wells up inside me, gratefulness for the gift of worship itself, for the gift of this church, the gift of the sacraments, and the gift of you, this church community. By church community, I truly do mean your presence here. I don't think some of us sometimes realize or think about our presence as a gift, but your faithful presence here every Sunday is indeed a gift to the other people in the pews with you. And it's a gift to any pilgrim who might walk through those doors looking for Christian community, because without your presence here, that gift would be denied them.



The text in Hymn #51 is a statement of why we all gather here every Sunday. As I was preparing for today, I did some research online and I learned that there was a teaching device used in the 1960s and 70s that said, "The Lord's people in the Lord's house, on the Lord's day, for the Lord's service." Every verse of this hymn draws on a particular aspect of that teaching device. You might be sitting there wondering, "Why is this guy talking about Christian worship when he was asked to talk about stewardship?" It's because without our faithful presence here in worship and our regular participation and our pledges, there would be no Christian worship and no Christian community in this place. And I believe our lives would be severely impoverished for that.

Why do I think that? Why is Christian worship so important? And why do I think it's worth giving of our time and our work, and our hard-earned money? Well turn to verse 1 in the hymn, we're here to praise God himself who actively called us and I would add continually calls us, individually and as a body, out of our old life: a life of self-preservation, a life of fear, a life of slow and gradual death, to a life lived together in the light of Christ. We've been set apart as the hymn says, as a "royal priesthood." It's our duty and our joy to gather together to praise God who actively rescued us and rescues us and gives us this new life. In the second verse, the hymn talks about this

place. I mean, look around. This is the Lord's house, and it is our home. Christ himself provides it, but it's just as much for us as it is for God. What is the Lord's house to be? The hymn tells us, "a school for the faithful," a refuge for the sinner, a place of rest for the weary, and a place where everyone finds a welcome.

Think about all the times in your life when you needed to encounter Jesus and you needed to learn or relearn the ways of Jesus; the times you needed to repent of your old ways and follow Christ afresh; the times that you just needed rest from the weariness of this world. This place is that place for us. I pray that it will be that place for countless others for generations to come.

The third verse of the hymn talks about time, the day of the week. Time, it's our most precious commodity, one that is doled out equally to each one of us, and yet a gift that is finite, at least in this life. The third verse says that this day, Sunday, is the Lord's Day. It was made by God, and Christ was raised from the dead on this day. This day is a sign to us and to the world of the future heavenly banquet to which we are all invited. Every Sunday when we join together around this communion table, we connect back to that night before Christ gave his life for us, when he handed the bread and wine to his friends. And then those friends handed the bread and the wine to their friends, and to their friends, and to their friends. Until 2,000 years later, someone placed that bread in your hand and handed that cup to you. Not only do we connect with the past when we come to this table, but we connect with the future because we participate ahead of time as a foretaste in that heavenly banquet yet to come that's already being prepared for us now.

We can be confident that there's no better use of our time than worship, because we know as it says in the last verse of the hymn, that Christ will take whatever we bring to this table, whatever we bring to him, and he'll bless it, break it, and give it to all his people. Along with that he'll give his very own life, for the hymn says "food everlasting." In Christian worship there is something so epic and so otherworldly, so outside of time and space, and so mystical and mysterious going on that we can't help but be gradually transformed by it. Yet it's done by God through such ordinary means. You, me, this building, bread, wine, and all we have to do is show up, faithfully and regularly, and give honestly and generously, and participate fully and joyfully, and at some point, I guarantee that we'll find ourselves looking back and realizing, maybe surprisedly, that we've been remade, that God has been reshaping our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh all along. God does this work for and in each one of us, through the gifts that we all bring together. He blesses them, breaks them, gives them to all his people, as the hymn says, "His own life imparting. Food everlasting."

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