

**6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
GATHER IN GOD’S NAME**

(\*=**please stand if you are able**)

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**OPENING PRAYER**

L: Source of Life, in the beginning,

**P: you made us and called us beloved.**

L: When we forget how to love,

**P: you remind us we are beloved.**

L: When the powers of the world try to oppress us,

**P: you name us beloved.**

L: When our siblings in faith condemn us,

**P: you claim us: beloved. We are your beloved, so today we sing your praises, Source of Love.**

**HYMN OF THE MONTH (SEE INSERT)**

**“ALL BELONG HERE”**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Friends, God has named us beloved, and yet, this can be easy to forget. In a world of scarcity and threats, in a world that is rarely satisfied, the bravest thing we can do is trust that we belong here. So let us now turn to confession to tell the truth of our lives—to trust that even here, God’s love is boundless. Let us pray

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: Divine Creator, we come before you with humble hearts, acknowledging our shortcomings and seeking forgiveness.

**P: We confess, O God, that we have subjected others to the kind of rejection and misunderstanding that you yourself experienced in the form of Jesus.**

L: We try to control the paths of those we love, deeming them “out of their minds” or unworthy of acceptance when they veer from our expectations for how they “should” be or whom they “should” love. Meanwhile, in moments of doubt, we have sometimes sought approval from those who do not understand our truth instead of finding solace in the chosen family you have blessed us with.

**P: Have mercy on us, O God, when we have believed what others say about us rather than what you promise. Have mercy on us, O God, when we have caused others to doubt your love.**

L: Forgive us for the moments we stand in our own way or in the way of others— dimming a God-given light, participating in the silencing of God-given voices. Forgive us, O God, for the times when we have allowed ego to overshadow our ability to extend solidarity and support to our most marginalized siblings. Like Esther, who risked her life to advocate for her people, help us to use whatever privilege or advantages we possess to uplift the voices of those who are vulnerable and oppressed. Grant us the courage to stand in solidarity with our queer and trans siblings, even when doing so puts us at risk or challenges our comfort.

**P: In times of fear and uncertainty, may we find solace in your promises, O God.**

L: Even if our earthly relationships falter, you remain steadfast in your love for us. Strengthen us with the knowledge that you will always take us in and hold us close, especially when we feel alone or misunderstood by those we hold dear.

**P: Help us, O God, to live authentically and boldly as the children you created us to be.**

L: Give us courage to trust our belovedness even in a world that sometimes threatens to snuff out the life that has been breathed into us by God. Strengthen us to embody your love and courage in all that we do. Guide us to walk humbly, act justly, and extend grace and mercy to all whom we encounter.

**P: May our lives be a reflection of your boundless love and embrace. In your holy name we pray. Amen.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Siblings in Christ, as long as we live on this side of heaven, there may be days when self doubt and insecurity creep in, or moments when fear and external pressures threaten our courage. There will surely be days when we fail to believe our own belovedness or affirm it in those around us. Even still, the promises of God are for us. Though the road is long and difficult, nothing can separate us from God’s love—not religious doctrine, not denominational decisions, not a person’s unbelief, not even our own fears. Friends, each day is a new chance to affirm life, to start over, and to love more fiercely. We are being renewed daily. This is our hope.

**ALL: We are all loved, forgiven, embraced, and cherished. We are God’s beloved. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI GTG#538**

**“HALLELUJA! WE SING YOUR PRAISES”**

Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.  
Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness. (Repeat)

Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona, di thabile kaofela.

Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona, di thabile kaofela. (Repeat)

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Loving God, Living Word, Help us be present to your Spirit moving among us here as we open ourselves to scripture that both comforts and challenges. Breathe your holy wisdom into human words; imbue us with the boldness to wrestle blessing from this book that some have claimed holds nothing for us but condemnation. As we bring old baggage and our own fresh, unique insights, open our hearts and minds to your good news, here and now. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

PSALM 27: 1-2, 5, 10-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation. Should I fear anyone? The Lord is a fortress protecting my life. Should I be frightened of anything? When evildoers come at me trying to eat me up— it’s they, my foes and my enemies, who stumble and fall! Because he will shelter me in his own dwelling during troubling times; he will hide me in a secret place in his own tent; he will set me up high, safe on a rock. Even if my father and mother left me all alone, the Lord would take me in. Lord, teach me your way; because of my opponents, lead me on a good path. Don’t give me over to the desires of my enemies, because false witnesses and violent accusers have taken their stand against me. But I have sure faith that I will experience the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living! Hope in the Lord! Be strong! Let your heart take courage! Hope in the Lord!

L: This is the word of God. **P: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM:**

**WE ARE A RAINBOW**

**David Kai**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

MARK 3:20-35

Jesus entered a house. A crowd gathered again so that it was impossible for him and his followers even to eat. When his family heard what was happening, they came to take control of him. They were saying, “He’s out of his mind!” The legal experts came down from Jerusalem. Over and over they charged, “He’s possessed by Beelzebul. He throws out demons with the authority of the ruler of demons.” When Jesus called them together he spoke to them in a parable: “How can Satan throw Satan out? A kingdom involved in civil war will collapse. And a house torn apart by divisions will collapse. If Satan rebels against himself and is divided, then he can’t endure. He’s done for. No one gets into the house of a strong person and steals anything without first tying up the strong person. Only then can the house be burglarized. I assure you that human beings will be forgiven for everything, for all sins and insults of every kind. But whoever insults the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. That person is guilty of a sin with consequences that last forever.” He said this because the legal experts were saying, “He’s possessed by an evil spirit.” His mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside and sent word to him, calling for him. A crowd was seated around him, and those sent to him said, “Look, your mother, brothers, and sisters are outside looking for you.” He replied, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” Looking around at those seated around him in a circle, he said, “Look, here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does God’s will is my brother, sister, and mother.”

L: This is the word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

“LOOK, HERE I AM”

**Elder Kiara Taylor**

**HYMN (see insert)**

**“AS COLORS IN THE SKY”**

**by Daniel Charles**

**WORDS OF GRATITUDE**

Family of faith, we celebrate our gifts knowing that the work is not yet done; the world is not yet as it should be. And so each week, we bring the gifts God has given us to build a world where all people are included, welcomed, and made whole. Let us now offer our gifts back to God.

**RESPOND IN GRACE**

**OFFERTORY GTG#622 “I WILL EXHAULT MY GOD, MY KING / TE EXALTARÉ, MI DIOS, MI REY”**

I will praise your name forever; I will exalt your name forever.  
Lord our God, you are great and worthy of the highest praise and honor,  
for your greatness is far beyond us; every day I’ll praise your holy name.

Y alabaré tu nombre eternamente y para siempre.  
Grande es Jehová y digno de suprema alabanza;  
y su grandeza es inescrutable; cada día te bendeciré.

**\* DOXOLOGY**

**“PRAISE THE LORD WITH THE SOUND OF TRUMPET”**

Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,  
praise the Lord with the harp and lute, praise the Lord with the gentle sounding flute.  
Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,  
praise the Lord in the dark of night, praise the Lord in the rain or snow or in the morning light.  
Praise the Lord in the deepest valley, praise the Lord on the highest hill,  
praise the Lord; never let your voice be still.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy God, you have gifted us with so much. We lay these gifts before you with hope for a better world where your image is honored in each person. Use them for the building of your kin-dom, and give us courage to dream of that day. In the name of the Beloved we pray, amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

L: We come with joyful hearts for the gift of diversity and bodies of all colors, sizes, and genders. For the gift of love and different ways in which we can love one another. For the gift of community and families that extend beyond biology. So today, we pray:

**P: increase our joy, O Holy One.**

L: We come with broken hearts for a society that makes tiny boxes and wants us all to fit in them. For love that is conditional and asks us to be who we aren't. For relatives that reject us and friends that forget us when we need them. So today, we pray:

**P: deliver us from evil, O Holy One.**

We come with thankful hearts For strength and courage to be and exist in this world as we are. For dreams of new ways to dismantle systems of oppression. For love and hope knowing a different world is possible. So today we pray:

**P: be with us today and always, O Holy One.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN (SEE INSERT)**

**“I KNOW THAT GOD LOVES ME”**

**by Shery K**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

God is Good! All the time! All the Time! God is Good!

As we conclude this Pride Sunday/Imago Dei Sunday worship, we understand that the work continues. May the love that binds us together as one family, chosen by God, continue to inspire us to extend grace, compassion, and understanding to all whom we encounter. May the courage of Esther—who risked everything to advocate for justice—embolden us to use our privileges to uplift those whose belovedness is being threatened. As we go forth from this place, may our particular gifts, personalities, and identities shine brightly within us, ever reflecting the imago dei in us and the belovedness in which we have been shaped. And may the assurance of God's unwavering presence accompany us on our journey, reminding us that we are never alone, and that we are deeply loved and cherished just as we are. Go now in the peace of God, the love of Christ, and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you

**People: And also with you**

**AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024**



**PASTOR**

Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez

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**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

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**SEXTON**

Benson Njie

**MINISTERS**

All the Members

***“A multicultural congregation worshipping together where Jesus Christ is Lord; where men, women, and children share in leadership; and where the strength of our fellowship builds bridges to the community.”***

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For offerings please scan the QR code below



## **EVENTS HAPPENING IN 2024**

**In person hybrid worship** is at 11AM

Zoom link is as follows:

By Computer

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 870 270 865

One tap mobile

+16465588656

**Drumming Program** will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month and will be off for the month of August. The next session will be July 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00PM at the South Highland Ave entrance.

**Hybrid English Bible Study** will be off for the summer and will return Thursday September 12<sup>th</sup>

Zoom Link bible study

By computer

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 376 838 854

One tap mobile

+16465588656,Spanish

**Spanish Bible Study** will be off for the summer and will return on Wednesday September 11<sup>th</sup>

**Coffee Hour** following worship today.

**Next Worship Team Meeting** will be August 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM

**Next Session Meeting** will be July 29<sup>th</sup> at 7PM?

**Popcorn Series will begin** on July 25<sup>th</sup> at 11am in the Fellowship Hall. The dates will be July 25<sup>th</sup>, August 1, 15, & 22.

**Pastor Jeniffer will be away** July 13<sup>th</sup> – July 20<sup>th</sup>, August 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup> – September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Lindsay will be away** July 26<sup>th</sup> -August 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Presbyterian Women 2024 Churchwide Gathering** will be August 8-11, 2024 in St. Louis, Missouri. If you are interested in attending, please register at [www.2024pwcwg.org](http://www.2024pwcwg.org)

**Please Share your tithes and offerings** using the QR code below



### **Prayers and Praise**

Please pray for everyone in leadership

Please pray for children/ families

Please pray for the Otu family

Please pray for the Supina/Ruess family

Please pray for the Sevilla family

Please pray for people struggling with cancer for healing

Please pray for people struggling with mental health

Please pray for leaders, people in a position of authority

Please pray for the Denzer Family

Please pray for Heather Blenkinsopp

Please pray for the Carretta family

Please pray for the Yumart family

Please pray for the Sippel family

Please pray for the Quinoy family

Please pray for Joy and Teresa Zeiden

Please pray for Boateng family

Please pray for Kiara Taylor's family

Please pray for Bruce and family

Please pray for Bob

Please pray for Curtis

Please pray for the Bonapace family

Please pray for peace in the world

Please pray for Warren's family

Please pray for Passengers and Crew Members of Ships

Please pray for Diana Behan and family.

## **Praise Songs and Hymns**

### **ALL BELONG HERE**

When your not sure who you really are,  
when all you feel is the shape of your scars,  
and you have more wounds than you can count,  
Open your eyes, look all around,  
You aren't alone, this is your home.

*Chorus:*

*Come and remember who you are here.  
Do this to remember who I am.  
Come and remember you belong here.  
All belong here.*

When you don't know how to forgive  
When locked doors seem like the only way to live  
And you've got more questions than you can count  
Open your eyes, look all around  
You aren't alone, this is your home. *(Chorus)*

*Bridge:*

At this table come as you are  
Broken and bleeding's ok  
At this table eat and be filled  
Come and drink in this grace. *(Chorus)*

### **AS COLORS IN THE SKY**

As colors in the sky,  
we move and blend in love,  
a touch of this, a mix, a match,  
as gifts from heaven above.  
Our genders may seem fixed,  
but even these may change  
as we find beauty in-between  
that may at first seem strange.

Our bodies may not match  
the way we feel inside,  
but we can change, transform, and find  
your love still deep and wide.  
So if we break the mold  
traditions put in place,  
let us with courage live our lives  
with kindness, love, and grace.

Creating God, you dance,  
you move as one in three.  
Come show us, by your rainbow light,  
our shared humanity.  
The heavens and the earth  
are made new every day,  
help us discover by your grace,  
new truth, new life, new ways.

**I KNOW THAT GOD LOVES ME**

I know that God loves me. I know that God loves me.  
Proudly placed on this earth so that others might  
see just how much my God loves me.

I know that God loves me. I know that God loves me.  
Proudly placed on this earth so that others might see  
just how much my God loves me.  
Proudly placed on this earth so that others might see  
just how much my God loves me.