

# A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

## THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 24, 2006

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

\*All who are able may stand.

**Bold type spoken by the congregation**

### THE PEOPLE GATHER. . .

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

The Call To Worship

(from *Psalms 1*)

Happy are those who take delight in the law of the Lord.

**They are like trees planted by streams of water.**

**In all that they do they prosper.**

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous.

**May God number us with the righteous as we worship the Lord.**

The Prayer of Adoration

**We seek to dwell in Your presence, O God, and behold evermore the warmth of Your love. For You shelter Your people during their time of adversity; You cradle them in Your arms when they are afraid and lonely. You beckon us to embrace You and put an end to our fearfulness. Entering Your sanctuary, we give You praise for Your mercy. Be pleased with our worship as we honor Your name. Through Christ our Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

\*The Hymn 430

“Come Sing, O Church in Joy!”

\*The Prayer of Confession

**We are sometimes too smart for our own good, God of all wisdom, yet not wise enough to do others good. We substitute “well said” for “well done.” We let those who trumpet their power and position override the wise. We pass by those silenced by oppression, thinking they have little to say worth hearing. We let our own ambitions lead us into jealousy of others’ accomplishments. Tension, discord, and upheaval are marks of our success. We have lost sight of our own good. Forgive us through Christ. . . (time for silent confession). . .**

\*The Choral Response

*“Laudate Nomen Domini”*

Christopher Tye

\*The Assurance of Pardon

Christ is the righteousness of God.

**Christ sows the seeds of the peace of God.**

In Christ we are being made righteous and peaceable.

**In Christ we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

\*The Gloria Patri

p. 579 in the Hymnal

\*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**

(Please exchange this ancient greeting with worshippers seated near you.

Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The *Old Testament* Lesson: *Proverbs 31:10-31*

p. 753 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 1*

p. 602 in the pew Bible

The Anthem

The *Epistle* Lesson: *James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a*

p. 279 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

\*The Hymn 313                      *“Come Down, O Love Divine”*

The *Gospel* Lesson: *Mark 9:30-37*

p. 55 in the pew Bible

The Sermon

**“Stooping or Standing?”  
ALLEN H. FISHER, JR.**

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE. . .

\*The Affirmation of Faith  
*Faith”*

(from *“A Brief Statement of*

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God,  
the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:  
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,  
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering

The Gathering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

\*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Doxology, p. 592 in the Hymnal

**Holy God, we who have spent much on our own pleasures are pleased to share that others may obtain the necessities of body and spirit. Thank you, God of Grace, for this opportunity to support the ministry and mission of our congregation. Grant a harvest of righteousness among us shown in the peaceable handling of conflict, in mutual love and support, and in courageous outreach to people near and far who need the help we can give. Bless each gift and giver. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME.

\*The Hymn 427      *“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”*

\*The Charge & Benediction

\*The Postlude