

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

September 5, 2004

The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

“Draw Near, All Ye People”

Larry Casey, Baritone

The Call To Worship

(from *Psalm 139*)

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up.

You discern my thoughts from far away.

You search my path and my lying down,

And are acquainted with all my ways.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them — they are more than the sand,

I come to the end — I am still with you.

The Prayer of Adoration

*The Hymn 476

“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!”

*The Prayer of Confession

God in Christ, who endured the cross in your own flesh for our sakes, hear us as we confess our sin. We would be your bold disciples, but we fear suffering. We would carry our cross, but it weighs too much. We count the cost of following you – as long as there are benefits; but to renounce all we have is a devastating prospect. Forgive the conditions we make when we try to obey, and free us by your grace to forsake all and follow you. . . (time for silent confession). . .

*The Choral Response

*The Assurance of Pardon

God is just and takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked.
Through Christ there is hope of eternal forgiveness.
Turn back from your past and embrace God's promised assurance.
In Christ there is redemption and release from all sin.
Thanks be to God. 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.)

HEARING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The Prayer for Illumination

The *Old Testament* Lesson: *Jeremiah 18:1-11*

p. 666 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18*

p. 541 in the pew Bible

The Anthem

"Shall We Gather at the River"

Aaron Copland

The *Epistle* Lesson: *Philemon 1-21*

p. 1043 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 358

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

The *Gospel* Lesson: *Luke 14:25-33*

p. 907 in the pew Bible

The Sermon

"Risking Jesus"

Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

*The Affirmation of Faith

from "A Brief Statement of Faith"

**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 God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,**

**Sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
And binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
Rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
Engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the water of baptism,
Feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
And calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage
To pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
To unmask idolatries in church and culture,
To hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
And to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
We strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
And to live holy and joyful lives,
Even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
Praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**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 the People and 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

SENDING

*The Hymn 393

"Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"

*The Charge & Benediction

*Postlude