



Sunday, September 20, 2026
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Entering God's Presence

Welcome and Gathering Prayer

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 42:1-5

As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?
My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”
These things I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I used to go to the house of God
under the protection of the Mighty One
with shouts of joy and praise
among the festive throng.
Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

Prelude

“Finlandia” (“Be Still, My Soul”)

Music: Jean Sibelius (1865-1957), arr. Gordon Schlut

Kalervo Kulmala, French horn

Gordon Schultz, Piano

Introit

“Come Worship the Lord”

Music: Earlene Rentz

IPC Choir

Chandler Cudlipp, Director

*Call to Worship (John 11/Psalm 62)

Dorothy Kwan

Leader: Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

People: Truly our souls find rest in God; our salvation comes from him.

Leader: Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

People: Truly our souls find rest in God; our salvation comes from him.

*Hymn of Praise – #460 “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Leader: Gracious God, in Christ Jesus you gave us a savior who mourned.

People: We confess, though, that we often have little interest and little time to mourn.

Leader: Forgive us for our indifference to the suffering and pain of others.

People: Enable us through your Holy Spirit to mourn as Christ mourned.

Assurance of Pardon (Isaiah 25:8-9)

Leader: The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces;

People: He will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth.

Leader: Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us.

People: This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.

God's Gracious Will for Our Lives (Galatians 6:2;9-10)

Leader: Carry each other's burdens,

People: and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Leader: Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

People: Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

***Gloria Patri #579 "Glory Be to the Father"**

Receiving the Word of God

Prayer of Illumination

"Lord, Be Thy Word My Rule"

IPC Choir

Music: Henry Lawes

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 61:1-4 (p. 749)

Dorothy Kwan

New Testament Reading – Matthew 5:4 (p. 968); Romans 12:9-16 (p. 1139)

Sermon

"Kingdom Flourishing: Blessed Are Those Who Mourn"

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Responding to God's Word

***Hymn of Response – "When Peace Like a River" (*insert*)**

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

Anu Mathew, Children's Ministry Elder

Offertory

"Romance for Horn and Piano"

Alexander Scriabin (1872-1915)

Kalervo Kulmala, French horn

Gordon Schultz, Piano

***Doxology #592** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Prayers of the People

Anu Mathew

The Lord’s Prayer (*in unison in English or the language of your choice*)

Going with God’s Mission and Blessing

Welcoming of Visitors

Anu Mathew

Announcements

Moment for Mission

Nadia Hou

***Hymn of Dedication – #403** “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

***Sending and Pastoral Benediction**

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Choral Benediction

Danish Amen

IPC Choir

Postlude

Tonerna (Visions)

Music: C. L. Sjöberg (1861-1900)

Kalervo Kulmala, French horn

Gordon Schultz, Piano

Please remain seated during the postlude. If you need to leave, please do so quietly.

****Please stand if you are able.***

Today’s bulletin cover features Italian artist Giovanni di Paolo’s “The Creation of the World and the Expulsion from Paradise” (1445). This painting is part of the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. This description of the painting appears on the museum’s website:

This masterpiece of Sienese painting combines Giovanni di Paolo’s exquisite visionary effects and narrative detail. The picture presents a vision of Paradise reminiscent of that described by the great Florentine poet Dante in “The Divine Comedy.” The universe is shown as a celestial globe, with the earth at the center surrounded by a series of concentric circles representing first the four elements, the known planets (including the sun, in accordance with medieval and Renaissance cosmology), and finally the constellations of the zodiac. Presiding over the scene of Creation is God the Father, bathed in a glowing celestial light as he is borne aloft by seraphim. Beside the “mappamondo” (map of the world) is the garden of Paradise, its four rivers issuing from the ground at the lower right. The garden’s effulgent flora symbolize the pure and sinless state of man before the Fall. A diminutive Adam and Eve are expelled from the garden by a lithe angel whose unusual nakedness and human form may symbolize his deep compassion for the corrupted state of humankind after the fall from grace.