

Encouraging the Israelites in Exile to Plant Gardens & Build Houses

## Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26th, 2020

Sunday Virtual Worship at 10:30am



### Call to Worship

One: Sometimes life takes us where we don't expect.

**All: Sometimes, God takes us where we don't expect.**

One: In worship, we gather to get in touch with God's bigger story.

**All: In worship, we gather to expand our hearts.**

One: So let us worship the God of unending surprises.

**All: Let us worship the God of love.**

**Gathering Song** – Praise and Thanksgiving & Hallelujah

## Praise and Thanksgiving

1 Praise and thanks-giv-ing, God, we would of-fer for all things  
 2 God, bless the la-bor we bring to serve you, that with our  
 3 Fa-ther, pro-vid-ing food for your chil-dren, by Wis-dom's  
 4 Then will your bless-ing reach ev-'ry peo-ple, free-ly con-

liv-ing, you have made good: har-vest of sown fields, fruits of the  
 neigh-bor we may be fed. Sow-ing or till-ing, we would work  
 guid-ing teach us to share one with an-oth-er, so that, re-  
 fess-ing your gra-cious hand. Where you are reign-ing, no one will

or-chard, hay from the mown fields, blos-som and wood.  
 with you, har-vest-ing, mill-ing for dai-ly bread.  
 joic-ing with us, all oth-ers may know your care.  
 hun-ger; your love sus-tain-ing show-ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.  
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version  
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# Hallelujah

Words and Music by  
Brenton Brown and Brian Doerksen

♩ = 96

VERSE

G/B



1. Your love is \_\_\_\_ a - maz - ing, stead - y and \_\_\_\_ un - chang -  
(2. Your love is \_\_\_\_ sur - pris) - ing, I can feel \_\_\_\_ it ris -



- ing. Your love is \_\_\_\_ a moun - tain, firm be - neath \_\_\_\_ my feet. \_\_\_\_ Your love is \_\_\_\_ a mys -  
- ing, all the joy that's grow - ing deep in - side \_\_\_\_ of me. \_\_\_\_ Ev - 'ry time \_\_\_\_ I see \_\_\_\_



- t'ry, how You gent - ly lift \_\_\_\_ me. When I am \_\_\_\_ sur - round - ed Your love car - ries me.  
\_\_\_\_ You all Your good - ness shines \_\_\_\_ through. I can feel \_\_\_\_ this God \_\_\_\_ song ris - ing up \_\_\_\_ in me.

CHORUS



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,



Your love makes \_\_\_\_ me sing. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -

15  $Em^7$  1, 2.  
 $C^2$

- jah, Your love makes \_ me sing. 2. Your love is \_ sur-pris -  
1. Your love is \_ a - maz -

18  $C^2$  INTERLUDE  $D$   $Em^7$

Your love makes \_ me sing. Yes, You make \_ me \_ sing.

21  $D/F\#$   $C^2$   $D$

Lord, You make \_ me \_ sing, sing, \_ sing. How You make \_ me \_

24  $Em^7$   $D/F\#$  CHORUS  $G$

\_ sing. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -

27  $D^{sus}$   $Em^7$   $C^2$

- jah, hal - le - lu - jah, Your love makes \_ me sing. Hal - le - lu -

30  $G$   $D^{sus}$   $Em^7$

- jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,

33 1, 2.  
 $C^2$  3.  
 $C^2$

Your love makes \_ me sing. Hal - le - lu - Your love makes \_ me sing.

Hallelujah - 3

35 ENDING  $C^2$   $G$

Lord, You make \_ me \_ sing.  
How You make \_ me \_ sing.

## **Introduce the Theme with Kids**

### **Welcome, RiverSource and Keyboards**

#### **No Longer Strangers Prayer**

Holy Spirit of God,

**You blow into our lives and send us in directions we never would have gone on our own. Send us into the lives of people we don't know, people we would call 'stranger' and reveal yourself right there to us. We are no longer strangers to each other – you make us brother and sister. Amen.**

## **Greeting**

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, we believe that God meets you here. We gather in the name of God the eternal Creator – Jesus Christ, God's only Son and the Holy Spirit – who is with you always... **And also with you.**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Let us confess that God is God and we are not.

*Silence for prayer and contemplation.*

Faithful and Merciful God, you know us. You know our lives. Clean up our hearts and minds. By your Holy Spirit, make us new.

**All: Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

**God we confess—we are loose ends. You give us the gift of community, and we weave walls of exclusion and isolation.**

**You give us the gift of a new day, and we spend more time unraveling justice than sewing seeds of peace and unity.**

**You give us the gift of holy surprises and unimaginable beauty, and we shut off our hearts and our blindfolded eyes.**

**Forgive us for our frayed ends and self-centered hearts.**

**Unravel the sin in us and replace it with love. Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

Creator God,

**Being faithful has never been easy. You asked Noah to build a ship. You asked the Israelites to plant gardens and build homes while in exile. You asked the prophets to speak challenging truths. You asked the disciples to drop their nets and follow you. And you ask us to love bigger than society wants to. Being faithful has never been easy. Give us the strength to say yes to your plans and let go of the tight grip we hold on to our plans. Give us your wisdom and strength to follow your plans, especially when they are hard. Amen.**

## THE STORY

**Narrator:** Our story and God's story continues with a reading from Jeremiah 29:1-7

**Narrator:** Jeremiah wrote a letter from Jerusalem to the elders, priests, prophets, and all the people who had been exiled to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. This was after King Jehoiachin, the queen mother, the court officials, the other officials of Judah, and all the craftsmen and artisans had been deported from Jerusalem. He sent the letter with Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah when they went to Babylon as King Zedekiah's ambassadors to Nebuchadnezzar. This is what Jeremiah's letter said:

**Congregation:** This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: "Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare."

**Narrator:** Stay tuned for the continuing saga that is our story and God's story.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

**Hymn – We Plow the Fields and Scatter**



## We Plow the Fields and Scatter



1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,  
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.  
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,  
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.  
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;  
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,



the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.  
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.  
but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

### *Refrain*



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.



We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

## Offering

**Worship Leader:** *We are grateful for your financial gifts; it's the only way churches are churches. Set up automatic giving by going to our website, [riverofhopehutchinson.org](http://riverofhopehutchinson.org) and follow the directions to "give online".*

## Prayers of the People

Each petition will end with the words: *Lord in your mercy.*

You will respond: ***Hear our prayers.***

# THE FEAST

## Setting the Table

*As the kids help set the table, make a circle around the table and lead the congregation in the table prayer written by Martin Luther:*

Let's pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. And let these gifts to us be blest. Blest be God who is our bread, may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

As we are gathered into one body by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us gather at the table, prepared and given for you by Christ. Taste of God's goodness and mercy.

When we come to this table, we bring all of ourselves.

**We bring joy and hope, dreams and prayers, grief and doubt, memories and heartache.**

God meets us here. God hears our cries and sees our scars.

**With open hearts and authenticity, we gather at the table of Christ.**

We remember that in the night when Jesus was betrayed by his best friends, he took bread. He blessed it and broke it and gave it to these same friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup, blessed it and gave it for all to drink saying, "This is the new covenant, the new promise, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."



## *The Lord's Prayer*

**Divine Source of Love and Life, Holy is your unspeakable name. May your Way of Love resound through earth, heaven in our midst. All we need to live and thrive we receive from you, Creator; forgive us when we turn away, as we forgive each other.**

**Keep us on the path of Wisdom, away from wicked tyranny; Spirit ever breathe through us, empower us with hope.**

**From you, through you and in you, are all things, now and always; to you be all honor and praise. Amen.**

## *Invitation to the Meal*

You are welcome to this meal. It is free and it is for you. If you hunger and thirst for grace and mercy that comes through Jesus Christ, then Christ has set this table just for you.

## **Communion Songs/Hymns – For the Fruit of All Creation**

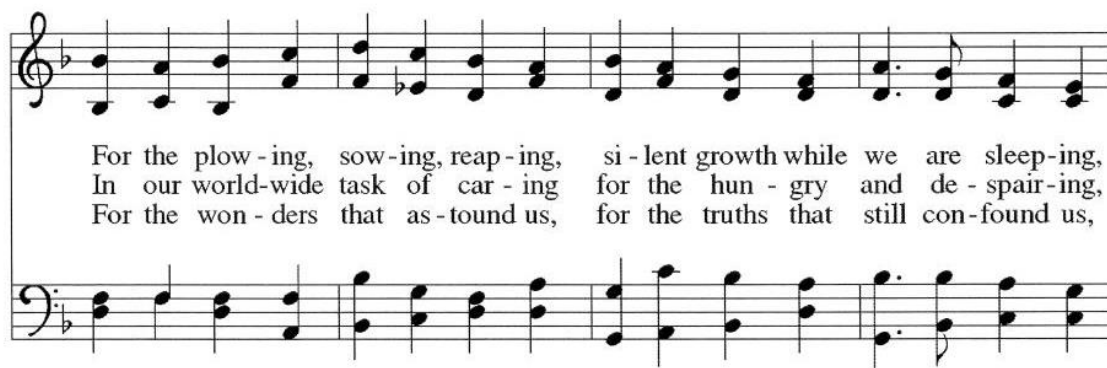
## For the Fruit of All Creation



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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### *Blessing after Communion*

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his peace. **Amen.**

### *Prayer after Communion*

Let us pray, **Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **THE SENDING**

Why does our church exist? What is our purpose?

**We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.**

### *Purpose Sightings*

There are many opportunities to serve God and our neighbor – this is the time to lift those up!

### *MILESTONES!*

### **Final Blessing**

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Sending Song** – Sing to the Lord of Harvest

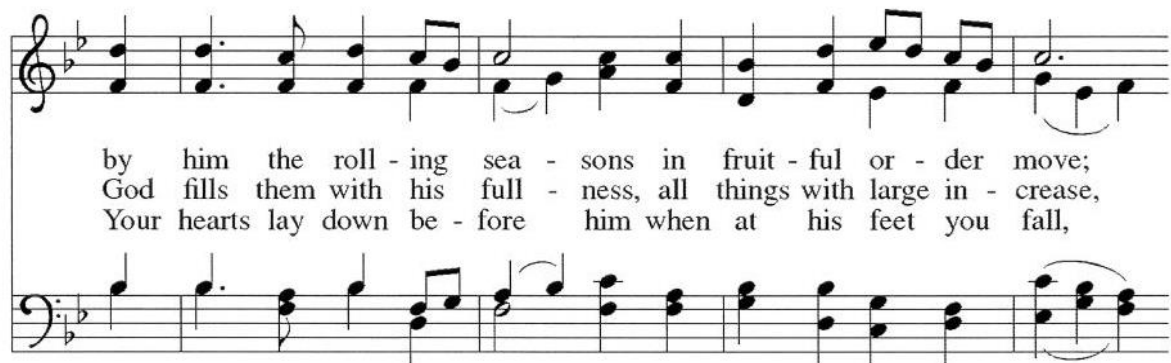
## Sing to the Lord of Harvest



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;  
 2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,  
 3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,



with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;  
 the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.  
 the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.



by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;  
 God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease,  
 Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,



sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.  
 and crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.  
 and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

Go in peace – Jesus is with you!    **Thanks be to God**

## Music to Send you out

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