

ORDER OF SERVICE

July 30, 2023 • 10:00 AM



PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who ransoms the souls of the faithful, sets the captives free, brings sight to the blind and gives life to those who are perishing: Death has no victory over you or your kingdom. Evil slinks away from your presence. Surely, you are a great prophet, and you are our savior and helper! Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emily Mitchell

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 105:1–4, 7)

Greg Terman

One: Give thanks to the Lord; call on His name; make His deeds known to all the people!

All: **For He is the Lord, our God, faithful to a thousand generations!**

One: Sing His praises; tell of His wonderful works, and glory in His holy name!

Let those who seek the Lord rejoice!

All: **For He is the Lord, our God, faithful to a thousand generations!**

One: Search for God, and for His strength. Never stop looking for Him.

All: **For He is the Lord, our God, faithful to a thousand generations!**

SONGS OF PRAISE “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty” and “So Will I (100 Billion X)”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we have sinned against you and against others.

We have sinned in what we have done and in what we have failed to do.

We are truly sorry.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for our sins,

forgive us all that is past and raise us to newness of life. Amen. *(silence for reflection)*

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

DOXOLOGY

BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

OFFERING “It Is Well With My Soul”

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 7:11–17 (NRSV)

Greg Terman

SERMON “Compassion That Heals”

Linda Erickson

SONG OF RESPONSE “In Christ Alone”

PASTORAL PRAYER

Laurel Underwood

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SONG OF SENDING “Rejoice, The Lord Is King”

BENEDICTION

Linda Erickson

Church Van: Stolen and Recovered

// It won't be travelling to/from Cristwood for a while...

We're sad to report that the church van was stolen sometime on Monday night or Tuesday of this past week. Christi Nixon posted about the theft on Facebook on Wednesday, and, amazingly, someone got in touch to say that they'd seen it at Northgate. Christi drove to Northgate and found the van, the police came, and the van is now being stored in a safe location. However, it has been damaged significantly, and any portable items were stolen (including the remaining gas in the tank!).

While it's wonderful that the van was found so quickly, it won't be able to make the Cristwood run for several weeks. Cristwood residents will need to make other transportation arrangements. We'll update you when the van is running again, and we thank you for your patience. Please pray that all will go well with the insurance company and that the van will be repaired quickly. Also, give thanks and praise to God that our van was recovered so swiftly!



Below is a repeat from the Stories of Faith column from the Friday, January 27th email.

Presence

// by Rick Jackson

"But how are you really feeling?"

A little more than five years ago, that was the question I received from a colleague at

Seattle Pacific University. I was ill, and I had just received a devastating diagnosis. When she first asked how I was doing, I told her "fine." Despite the circumstances, it was an honest answer. But it was not enough, and so with all the best intentions she pressed me for more.

My reaction? Inside, I felt rage. Outside, I remained polite: "Really, I'm fine." A more honest reaction would have mixed in the expletives that ran through my head.

I walked away taken aback by my emotions. Why was I so angry? Here was a Christian attempting to show care for a wounded soul. Shouldn't I feel grateful? But gratitude was the last thing I felt.

It took a while to locate the sources of my rage. For one thing, while I had known this person for at least 20 years, we weren't close friends. Her question sought a level of vulnerability out of sync with our relationship — especially as we stood in public beneath the giant Dutch Elms on campus.

But there was a deeper reason for my anger: I felt like I was being asked to perform my grief. Instead, what I really needed was the presence of people willing to sit with me and wait until I had the words. In his writings on suffering, the Apostle Paul recognized being in such a place: "We do not know what we ought to pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express (Romans 8:26)."

By God's grace, my anger did not linger. It helped that I had

people who were willing to be present. But beyond that, tougher questions took hold. Was I really any better? How well did I do when I was in the presence of suffering? Not much, I concluded. That realization kept my heart from growing hard.

Ten months later, my doctors concluded that they had misdiagnosed me. My once-dire prospects suddenly brightened, and for that I thank God every day. But that is not the heart of this story. After all, if that diagnosis had been correct, would God have been any less present? No. Instead, God showed me anew why presence matters more than words. It is that lesson I strive to apply each day. I still often fall short, but the journey is not over.



Happy Birthday!

- Jan Lackey..... July 30
- Tim Julius.....Aug. 01
- Donna TimbrookAug. 01
- Valerie Grissom.....Aug. 02
- Dorothy Roat.....Aug. 04
- Emily MitchellAug. 07
- Gil PehrsonAug. 08
- David Harrison.....Aug. 09
- Trent WilliamsAug. 10



Upcoming Events

- First Fruits Collection.....Aug. 06
- Ahinas LuncheonAug. 13
- Pool PartyAug. 19

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