

# Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 10, 2023

10:00 a.m.

## The Approach to God

PRELUDE

Cantabile

Paul F. Page

WELCOME

VOTUM

CALL TO WORSHIP adapted from Ephesians 1:3-10 (*responsively*)

Praise be to God!

Praise be Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**Thanks be to God who has bestowed on us  
every spiritual blessing in Christ.**

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world

**to belong to him alone, and to be holy,  
and to be blameless in his sight.**

In love he shaped his plans for us, for the praise of his glorious grace!

**He has freely given us this grace in the One he loves.**

In him we have redemption,

we are assured of forgiveness, and of priceless grace.

Through Jesus, the promised One, according to his delight in showing love,

**God loves us with a grace beyond our own understanding.**

In his steadfast love for his beloved created ones,

**God calls us, beckons us,**

**to be joined with all that God has made,  
under Christ.**

SALUTATION

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION 22 Rejoice, You Righteous, in the Lord  
Tune: ELLACOMBE

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

(The congregation may exchange the Peace.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

**Holy God,**

**You have made us, and you know all that we are,  
and all that we are not.**

**You have formed us,**

**and made us for the purpose of life in you;**

**but we would like to think we've made ourselves,**

**and that we determine our own paths and purpose.**

**We hide from you what we do not want to surrender,**

**and offer you instead our own attempts at goodness,**

**as if our offerings would hide what we hold back.**

Save us, God, from the wreckage of our sin and self-made stories.  
 Jesus, teach us once again  
 that we cannot live for ourselves alone.  
 Holy Spirit, let us wholeheartedly offer our lives  
 as offerings to God,  
 and renew us in Christ,  
 to live for him alone.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE Psalm 103:8-12

\*HYMN Tu amor, oh Dios, perdure para siempre  
 Text Psalm 136; Adam M.L. Tice; Tune: Tony E. Alonso  
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Estribillo / Refrain

Tu a - mor, oh Dios, per - du - ra pa - ra

siem - pre. Your love, O God, en - dures for - ev - er.

Tu a - mor, oh Dios, per - du - ra pa - ra siem - pre.

Última vez a la Coda  
 Last time to Coda

Your love, O God, en - dures for - ev - er.

CHILDREN'S TIME

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING STAFF

## The Word of God

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Ephesians 1:3, 8b-10

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

This is the Gospel of Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

“I Am Not My Own”

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

## The Response to God

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from Psalm 103:13-22 (*responsively*)

As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

**For he knows how we were made;  
he remembers that we are dust.**

As for mortals, their days are like grass;  
they flourish like a flower of the field;  
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.

**But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting**  
on those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children’s children,  
**to those who keep his covenant  
and remember to do his commandments.**

The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,  
and his kingdom rules over all.

**Bless the Lord, O you his angels,  
you mighty ones who do his bidding,  
obedient to his spoken word.**

Bless the Lord, all his hosts,  
his ministers who do his will.

**Bless the Lord, all his works,  
in all places of his dominion.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHARING THE GIFT OF FELLOWSHIP

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The Tree of Life

K. Lee Scott, "Shades Mountain"

There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom,  
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations:  
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all beauty.

Its name is Jesus, name that says, "Our Savior!"  
There on its branches see the scars of suffering;  
see where the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its lifeblood.

Thorns not his own are tangled in its foliage;  
our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it.  
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not destroyed it nor fire consumed it.

See how its branches reach to us in welcome;  
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary!  
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow, I will give blessing."

This is my ending, this is my resurrection;  
into your hands, Lord I commit my spirit.  
This have I searched for; now I can possess it. This ground is holy.

All heav'n is singing, "Thanks to Christ whose  
Passion offers in mercy, healing, strength and pardon.  
Peoples and nations, take it freely!"  
Amen! My Master!

Péczei Király Imre, paraphrased by Erik Routley

\*DOXOLOGY 965

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION 781 My Only Comfort  
Tune: RESIGNATION

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Alone to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ Gaël Liardon

\*You may stand.

*Worship Leaders: Rev. Janelle Lopez-Koolhaas, preaching; Kamerkoor; Linda Strouf, Minister of Music.*

## Today

We welcome all who worship with us and ask visitors and members to sign the Friendship Cards so that we may get to know one another. Please join us in the Gathering Place for refreshments and fellowship after the worship service.

The flowers at the chancel are given by Al and Jane Osman.

Today we celebrate the many years of the many years of service of Andy and Jane Zoerman as they retire from their positions as nursery attendants. A cookie and punch reception will follow the service.

ASSISTING TODAY: Deacons/Ushers: Roger DeYoung, Laura Baer, Sandy Stielstra.

IF YOU DESIRE PRAYER for yourself and/or others Eleanor Van Dyke and Tom Ten Hoeve will be available to pray with you following today's worship service. Please make your way to the Place of Prayer located in the south hallway on the main level.

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP: Our Children and Worship Program for children aged 4 through the 2nd grade continues today during the 10:00 service. Our Worship Center program takes place in Room 2. (Downstairs: Take the Northwest staircase down to the lower level. The room is the first door to your right.)

EDUCATION HOUR, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Preschool-First Grade room 2      Second-Fifth Grade room 1  
6th-8th grades room 11      Senior High Youth Room

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES, 11:30-12:30

Mosaic: God Is Never Far Away: The Presence of God In The Created Order led by Tom Boogaart.  
Next week: "Part 1: Shaping A Christian College Community for Human Flourishing" led by Becky Starkenburg Meets in the chapel and on Zoom (same link as worship).

"The Corinthian Correspondence: The Cross Changes Everything Part Deux" meets in room 22.  
Class led by George Hunsberger

**EL ENCUENTRO (EN ESPAÑOL):** Les invitamos a las 11:30 a.m. a reunirnos en la presencia del Señor, escuchar su Palabra y orar juntos. Favor de invitar a sus familiares y vecinos-- ¡Todos son bienvenidos! Nos reuniremos en **Fellowship Hall**. (gimnasio). ¡Nos vemos!

*[Translation] **EL ENCUENTRO** (SPANISH GATHERING) We invite you to join us at 11:30 a.m. to spend time in the presence of God through his Word, and to pray together. Feel free to invite your family and friends-- everyone is welcome! We meet in the **Fellowship Hall**. See you! English translation via headset is available.*

## The Week Ahead

### Sunday

8:45 a.m. Kamerkoor  
11:15 a.m. Education Hour  
11:30 a.m. Spanish Worship Ministry  
6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group at Greens' house

### Monday

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study  
12:00 p.m. Blood Drive  
1:30 p.m. Miriam Bible Study

### Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
10:00 a.m. Hannah/Elizabeth Bible Study  
12:00 p.m. Lydia Bible Study  
6:30 p.m. Outreach Team  
7:00 p.m. Women's Ministries Kick-Off  
7:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting

### Wednesday

6:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study  
8:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayers (zoom)  
1:30 p.m. Rachel Bible Study  
5:30 p.m. LIFT Dinner  
6:15 p.m. LIFT Children's Class/Middle School Youth Group  
6:30 p.m. LIFT Adult Classes

### Thursday

8:00 a.m. Sunrise Saints

### Friday

6:30 p.m. High School Bible Study

## Saturday

9:30 a.m. Curso de Discipulado en Español (Discipleship Class)

## Congregational News

*Please remember in prayer those in the hospital and in care facilities.*

Please remember to have someone notify the church office when you are in the hospital so you can receive spiritual care by the pastoral staff. Call 392-1459.

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT: Henry Ploegstra Hospice-Margaret Doorenbos. Home-Bill Charlton, Barb Mummert, Ruby Steketee; Out of Town-Ellen Rieck, Lucille Schroeder, Phyllis Brown. Missionaries-John & Lynne Hubers (Ethiopia), Angel Lopez (Mexico).

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES: The Women's Ministries of Third Reformed Church Kickoff Event is September 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Place. Refreshments will be served following a short program describing TRC's Women's Ministries. Our Bible study subject this year is Luke-Acts. All women are invited to join one of our study groups and join us for the kickoff.

KIDS HOPE: **Wanted!** One man willing to share his life experience and be a role model for a 7th grade Kids Hope student. We have mentored this student for several years. His current mentor is unable to continue due to health issues. His brother is also in the program and his mother is very appreciative of Kids Hope. Please contact me for more information at 616-801-3190 or b.rannow@icloud.com. Thank You!

LIFT (Life in Faith Together) begins Wednesday, September 13. Dinner and community celebration time is from 5:30-6:15 p.m., classes and activities for all ages following. Adult opportunities can be found in Third Church News. The first session will be Wednesday, September 13 and will run weekly through November 29.

BLOOD DRIVE: Third Reformed Church will host a blood drive on Monday, September 11, from 12:00 to 5:45 p.m. Visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) to sign up to give blood that day.

An Intergroup Dialogue focused on Human Sexuality and Gender will be offered this Fall on Wednesdays after the LIFT dinner. If you're interested in joining this group please let the church office know.

ART CLASS: Kathy Van Tubbergen will be offering a watercolor class beginning Monday, September 11. Space is limited. More information is available in this week's Third Church News. Email Kathy at [kvt\\_art@icloud.com](mailto:kvt_art@icloud.com) if you are interested in attending this class.