

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**August 15, 2021**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Elder of the Month: Bill Koebel
- Deacon of the Month: Lois Silber

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*from Amy Loving*

Liturgist: The Lord is making a new covenant with the people of God.

**Congregation: Here in this place, Christ writes the law of love on our hearts.**

L: We are children of the living God.

**C: Together, let us worship the Lord of Love!**

**\*HYMN**

*O God, Who Gives Us Life*

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**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

We come before God not as despised sinners, but as beloved children. With the confidence of children of God, let us humbly confess our sin.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*from Thom Shuman*

**Love that knows no boundaries: we crowd our lives with so much activity, that it is hard to find time for you. We become so focused on ourselves, we can overlook those around us who are searching for hope. We fill our spiritual emptiness with junk, rather than feasting on your Word.**

**Abundant Mercy, forgive us. Open our eyes, that we may see your new covenant written in plain sight on our hearts. Open our hearts, that we may join you in serving the broken of the world. Open our love, so we may pour it out as abundantly and graciously as your love is given to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

*We reflect in silence on the ways we have fallen short.*

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news! As people born of water and the Spirit, we have died to the old life, and a new life has begun. God's grace is poured out upon us day by day. Be thankful, and live as one who has been raised to new life!

**Thanks be to God.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Loving God, fountain of every blessing, open us to your life-giving word, and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that living waters may flow through our hearts—a spring of hope for a thirsty world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

*Isaiah 31:31-34*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of God for the people of God!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**ANTHEM**

*Trumpet Voluntary*

*Steve Thiel, trumpet  
composed by John Stanley  
arr. Sue Mitchell Wallace and John H. Head*

**SECOND READING**

*Acts 10:1-16*

In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius.” He stared at him in terror and said, “What is it, Lord?” He answered, “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.” When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa.

About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. Then he heard a voice saying, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane

or unclean.” The voice said to him again, a second time, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**MESSAGE**

Rev. Ben Shaw

**\*HYMN**

*In the Midst of New Dimensions*

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**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**CALL TO OFFERING**

*Per COVID-19 safety measures, we will not pass the offering plate for some time. As you feel called, you may leave your offering in the plate in the Gathering Room or donate online at [MPChurch.net](http://MPChurch.net).*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

... And now hear as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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**

*God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

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## **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all this day, and unto your life eternal. Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**