



# Welcome to Worship

First Presbyterian Church  
Petaluma, CA | September 17, 2023

## PRELUDE

Jenny Smith

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor John

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES

Lonna Mulkey

We light these candles to remind ourselves of God's presence,  
not only in this place, but in all places. Amen.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

O give thanks to the Lord!  
The Lord hears the cries of the people.

**Give thanks to the Lord.**

The works of the Lord are great.  
Remember what God has done.

**Give thanks to the Lord.**

God has done miracles,  
and the Lord always remembers God's covenant.

**Give thanks to the Lord.  
Glory and praise is due to the Lord!**

## PRAYER AND SILENT LISTENING TO GOD

Lord, you have loved us with a love that will not let us go no matter what. You keep coming back to us even when we turn away from you. Give us the grace to become closer friends with you. Keep reaching out to us, keep taking us back and talking to us even when our love fails.

In our darkness, shine a light. In our sorrow, comfort us. In our despair, inspire hope. In our dry and weary hearts, spring forth new life. Give us eyes to see you when you stand beside us. Give us ears to hear your voice, speaking to us in the silence. Give us the faith to see your hand working wonders in our lonely and desperate times. You are God with us. Give us the grace to be your people with you. In this time of silence, prepare our hearts for worship.

## HYMN

### *It Is Well with My Soul*

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

*It is well with my soul;  
it is well;  
it is well with my soul.*

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,  
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. *(chorus)*

He lives: O the bliss of this glorious thought.  
My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
O my soul! *(chorus)*

Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so it is well with my soul. *(chorus)*

**CONFESSION AND PARDON**

Lonna Mulkey

Trusting in God’s mercy,  
let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

**Gracious God, we have sought after things, but we have not sought after you. We have expected generosity, but we have not shown generosity. We have not been gracious or grateful. We have failed to remember all that you have done. Forgive us and fill our hearts with gratitude. Help us to share our gifts and strengthen our legs so that we can run after you, O God.**

*Silence, a time for personal confession.*

People of God, our sins are forgiven;  
we are reconciled to God.  
Let us therefore love one another  
with gratitude in our hearts and praise on our lips.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*Holy Manna*

**DISCOVERY TIME**

Grete Hansen

**THE OFFERING**

Pastor John

**\*DOXOLOGY** *(or in your preferred version)*

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

**OLD TESTAMENT**

Exodus 16:2-15

Lonna Mulkey

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather

enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.”

So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

**NEW TESTAMENT**

John 6:27-40

Lonna Mulkey

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.”

Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” So they said to him, “What sign

are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTING ON THE WORD

Pastor John

## HYMN

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty.  
Hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more;  
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee;  
I will ever give to thee.

### **OUR PRAYERS TO GOD**

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(or in your preferred version)*

**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.**

### **CHARGE**

### **CLOSING RESPONSE**

From where we are  
to where you need us,  
**Jesus, now lead on.**

From the security of what we know  
to the adventure of what you will reveal,  
**Jesus, now lead on.**

To refashion the fabric of this world  
until it resembles the shape of your reign,  
**Jesus, now lead on.**

Because good things have been prepared  
for those who love God,  
**Jesus, now lead on.**

Surround us with your presence,  
inspire us with your purpose,  
confirm us in your love.  
**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

### **CLOSING SONG**

### *Go Now in Peace*

Go now in peace, never be afraid.  
God will go with you, each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,  
Know he will guide you in all you do.

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Worship Leaders: Pastor John Chase, Lonna Mulkey, Music Director Jane Shelly,  
Accompanist Jenny Smith, Student Ministries and Events Coordinator Grete Hansen

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#### Credits

Art page 1: Cody F. Miller, *Manna* (detail).

Call to Worship from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 2*, pg. 166 (based on Psalm 105:1-6).

Confession and Pardon from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 2*, 166-167.

Closing Response adapted from *A Wee Worship Book, Fourth Incarnation*, 2002, Wild Goose Worship Group, GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, 1999, p. 24, 79.

Music: *It Is Well with My Soul*; TEXT: Horatio G. Spafford, 1876, alt.

Music: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*, TEXT: William Williams, 1762; stana 1, trans. Peter Williams, 1771; stanzas 2-3, trans; William Williams, 1772, MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907.

Music: *Go Now In Peace*, TEXT: Don Besig and Nancy Price, MUSIC: Don Besig, © 1988, Harold Flammer Music, a Division of Shawnee Press, Inc.