



September 29, 2024
19th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship Sunday

Leading Worship Today:

Pastor: Brian Entz

Lay Leader: Lisa Ellwoods

Accompanist: Ralph Johansen & Worship Team

*Please read along with all **Bold** text
All are invited to stand when there is an **

Larger Print Hymns: Please see an usher if you would like a copy of larger print hymns.

Children's Bulletins: Please see an usher if you are interested in a children's bulletin.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, trusting that you will make all things right, if I surrender to your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with you forever in the next. -Reinhold Niebuhr

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 124

If God had not been on our side,

let Israel now say;

If God had not been on our side,

when enemies rose up against us,

Then would the waters have overwhelmed us

and the torrent gone over us;

Our help is in the Name of God,

the maker of heaven and earth.

*OPENING SONGS

#616 Our God Is an Awesome God (2x)

#469 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (2x)

As For Me

Verse 1

Your love oh Lord is strength to my soul
Hope for tomorrow it won't let go
Your presence is the joy of my life
To You I lift my eyes

Chorus

As for me and my house we will serve the Lord
We will sing of Your love forevermore
As for me and my house we will serve the Lord
Serve the Lord

Verse 2

Your word alone a lamp to my feet
A light to my path as You're leading me
Your ways oh Lord are higher than mine
To You I lift my eyes

Chorus

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We come before God recognizing our faults and trusting in God's loving mercy. Together let us lean on the grace of God and confess our sins.

Holy and gracious God you created us in your glorious image and likeness, but we do not live as divine image bearers. Forgive us, O God, for the times when we do not live as if you are with us, for the times when we do not recognize your blessings in our lives, and for the times when we do not bless others as you have blessed us. Forgive us for the things we have done and the things we have left undone that have broken relationships, harmed others, and driven people from you.

Restore us, we pray, through Jesus, your Son, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Receive the good news! Hope does not disappoint us, for God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Trust the good news and give thanks, for in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and reconciled to God.

Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE

#447 We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

*SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: Therefore, since we have been made righteous through Christ's faithfulness, we have peace with God. Let us also share peace with one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

The people may exchange with their immediate neighbors, by words or gesture, signs of peace and reconciliation.

WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Help us to receive, understand, and enact your word this day, O God, that we might become more conformed to your Word, Jesus Christ. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22 (NRSV)

1So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. 2On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." 3Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me — that is my petition — and the lives of my people — that is my request. 4For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." 5Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" 6Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

9Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." 10So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

9:20Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, 21enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, 22as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 9:38-50 (NRSV)

38John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." 39But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. 40Whoever is not against us is for us. 41For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

42"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. 43If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. 45And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. 47And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, 48where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

49"For everyone will be salted with fire. 50Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SONG OF PRAISE

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Verse 1

O soul my soul are you weary and troubled
No night so dark that our eyes cannot see
There's light so bright as we look to our Savior
Life more abundant and free
Life more abundant and free

Verse 2

God our God You are with us in darkness
Your Word Your light is leading us on
Our hearts can hear You Heavenly Father
Calling us all to Your Son
Calling us all to Your Son

Chorus

(For we) Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace

Chorus

NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 5:13-20 (NRSV)

13Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. 14Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. 16Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. 17Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

19My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, 20you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

The Rev. Brian Entz

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING

Down to the River to Pray

Giamanco Ed. Agre

*"Let us present ourselves to God as those
who have been delivered from death to life".
To give online, please scan the QR code.*



*PRAISE REFRAIN

#710 We Lift Our Voices

We lift our voices, we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

*OFFERING PRAYER

*AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

from the Confession of 1967

The church responds to the message of reconciliation in praise and prayer. In that response it commits itself afresh to its mission, experiences a deepening of faith and obedience, and bears open testimony to the gospel. Adoration of God is acknowledgment of the Creator by the creation. Confession of sin is admission of every person's guilt before God and of their need for God's forgiveness. Thanksgiving is rejoicing in God's goodness to all people and in giving for the needs of others. Petitions and intercessions are addressed to God for the continuation of divine goodness, the healing of human ills, and deliverance from every form of oppression. The arts, especially music and architecture, contribute to the praise and prayer of a Christian congregation when they help people to look beyond themselves to God and to the world which is the object of God's love.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you taught us to pray. Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that our prayers may serve your will and show your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here you are invited to turn to a neighbor or two and pray with/for one another or you may pray individually, whichever you are most comfortable with.

After a period of time the Pastor will continue...

Holy One our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people. In your mercy, look with compassion on us and everyone who turns to you for help, for you are gracious, Loving God. We give you glory, O blessed Trinity, now and always. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

SENDING

*CLOSING SONG

#465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus

WORSHIP NOTES

All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

Our God Is an Awesome God Text: Rich Mullins, 1988, alt. Music Rich Mullins, 1988 Text and Music ©1988 Universal Music-Brentwood Benson Publishing

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying Text and Music: Ken Medina, 1970 Text and Music©1973Hope Publishing Company

As For Me CCLI Song # 7168696 Chris Tomlin | Jason Ingram | Pat Barrett © 2021 Capitol CMG Genesis; Capitol CMG Paragon; Housefires Sounds; S. D. G. Publishing; Vamos Publishing; J Ingram Tunes; So Essential Tunes

We Are Forgiven Text: Trad. Liturgical text Music: Hal H. Hopson, 1995 copyright Hal Hopson 1995

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus CCLI Song # 7067212 Aaron Shust | Paul Baloche © 2016 Bridge Building Music, Inc.; CP Shust Tunes; Integrity Worship Music; Leadworship Songs

Down to the River to Pray Trad American Folk Tune arr. Anthony Giamanco©2021 This edition arr. Agre 2024

We Lift Our Voices Text and Music: Dwight Liles, 1984 Copyright 1984 Word Music, LLC

What a Friend We Have in Jesus Text: Joseph Scriven, 1855 Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee, 2001 Music: Charles C. Converse, 1868 Korean Trans ©2001 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Changes in Medicare 2025: Join us on October 1st at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. This free educational seminar will address how Medicare is changing.

Free Community Spaghetti Supper: Join us on Saturday, October 5th from 4:30pm to 6pm. There is also a sign up sheet outside the office if you are interested in helping with food preparation, serving, and/or cleaning up.

How can we pray for you?

Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.



BPC Prayer List:

- Milla Spike, Kevin's grand daughter
- Larry Pattee
- Lois Lindstrom
- Joel Aldrich
- Marquetta Shupe
- Theresa
- Madree
- Jim, Elaine Thole's brother, following a diagnosis
- Donna, a friend of Lana Kopplin, who has cancer
- Jill, the niece of Al DeBellis, who has terminal illness
- Kelly, daughter of Al DeBellis, who has cancer
- Gary, Chuck Klaassen's brother-in-law, was in a serious car crash
- Jonathon, a friend of Barb & Larry Janski
- Shannon, Virginia's former daughter-in-law
- Daniel Elliot
- Erva Hance
- Barb and Tom Stone
- Jan Brown, early morning Women of Faith
- Dennis Dietz, Virginia's friend
- Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter
- Jimm and Jodie Underwood, Lanny & Shirley's son-in-law and daughter
- Brittany Daniels
- John and Charlotte Collins
- Janice Sorby
- George and Elaine Thole and family following Scott's death
- Tanya Jenson DeBellis and family following Al's death

For peace in Ukraine and Russia, Israel/Palestine, Congo, and around the world.

For our neighbor congregations in Buffalo and for the congregations of our presbytery.

Upcoming This Week

Today

9:30a Worship
10:30a Classes, Coffee & Conversations-
Conversations to Go

Monday

7:00p AA

Tuesday

9:00a Crafty Ladies
9:00a Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe
6:00p Changes in Medicare 2025
6:30p Faith Formation Committee Meeting

Wednesday

11:00a Personnel Committee Meeting
7:00p Adult Choir

Thursday

7:30a People of Faith
10:00a Women of Faith
5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group

Friday

Saturday

4:30p Community Spaghetti Supper

Sunday

9:30a Worship
10:30a Classes, Coffee & Conversations-
Budget Conversation w/Session

Buffalo Presbyterian Church

507 Calder Ave NE, Buffalo, Minnesota 55313

www.BuffaloPresbyterian.org

(763) 682-2773

Brian Entz, Pastor
Mike Agre, Choir Director
Ralph Johansen, Organist
Mike Quady, Clerk of Session
Christy Wood, Administrative Assistant

Brian@BuffaloPresbyterian.org
MikeA@BuffaloPresbyterian.org
REJohansen@hotmail.com
Quady12@gmail.com
office@buffalopresbyterian.org

Our God Is an Awesome God 616

Awesome God

Our God is an awe-some God who reigns from heav-en a-bove

with wis - dom, power, and love; our God is an awe-some God!

This is a contemporary worship song that first gained recognition on Christian radio and later became a popular congregational song. "Awesome" here is not a trivial expression but carries the meaning of "awe-inspiring" and is based on Scripture (e.g. Daniel 9:4).

TEXT: Rich Mullins, 1988, alt.

MUSIC: Rich Mullins, 1988

Text and Music © 1988 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing

AWESOME GOD

Irregular

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying 469

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing. Lord, send your


Spir - it in this place. Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren

pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.


This chorus from a longer song has become a popular sung prayer for the presence of the Holy Spirit. Easily memorized, it makes a very suitable sung response at appropriate points during a series of prayer concerns or with repeated singing can open or close a time of prayer.

465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus


죄짐맡은 우리구주





1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum-bered with a load of care?





What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis-cour-aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge; take it to the Lord in prayer!

O what peace we of - ten for - feit; O what need-less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak-ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so-lace there.



This text was written by an Irish-born immigrant to Canada to comfort his mother in Ireland when she was going through a time of special sorrow. The role of prayer as a source of strength and consolation is underscored by its repeated use as a rhyme word in all three stanzas.