



**Nineteenth Sunday
after Pentecost
October 4, 2026 - 9:45 AM**

THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE

**"For God so Loved the World"
Harold De Cou**

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

"Amen Siakudumisa"

We are called into worship through the words of this South African song of celebration and praise, "Amen Siakudumisa," meaning, "Amen, we praise your name, O God."

***SONG OF WORSHIP**

**"O God of Vision"
TUNE: LOBE DEN HERREN #71**

O God of vision

Far greater than all human scheming

Gather us now in your presence

Refreshing redeeming

Show us anew

Life from your breathtaking view

Lovely beyond all our dreaming

Pour out your Spirit on all

Now assembled before you

Make our diversity here

Be a means to adore you

Stranger and friend

**young old and youthful again
Make us as one we implore you**

**Grant to us insight O God
For this time that we live in
May we dream challenging dreams
shape the world we've been given
Speak through the dark
Shine through with your holy spark
Whatever clouds dim our vision**

**Grateful we come now by
Christ's invitation clear spoken
We seek the nourishment
Found in fruit crushed and bread broken
Christ for us all
Come let us answer the call
Offering our lives as the token**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God who is with us,
in the life and ministry of Jesus,
you have given us a vision
for choosing connection over disconnection—
to draw near to others in curiosity, generosity, and compassion.
When we have chosen certainty over curiosity,
judgement over generosity,
and callousness over compassion,
forgive us, O God.**

Led by sanctuary choir.

Kyrie. **Kyrie.** Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Christe. **Christe.** Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Kyrie. **Kyrie.** Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Kyrie. **Kyrie.** Eleison. **Eleison.**

Please use this period of silence for personal reflection.

By your Spirit, O God,

open our eyes to your vision

and our ears to your call

so that we are encouraged

in the work of reconciliation and transformation

as we follow in the pattern and practice of Christ.

In the name of Christ, our example, we pray. Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Congregation, bless your children.

You are God's beloved child. With you, God is well pleased.

*SONG OF PREPARATION

"Bind Us Together"

Bind us together within your love

Bind us together within your holy love

As we shared in our sorrows

**We will share in your joy
Bind us together in love**

**Bind us together and be our peace
Bind us together and be our perfect peace
Though the tempest may rage
We will rest in your joy
Bind us together in peace**

**Bind us together and give us hope
Bind us together and give us endless hope
Though our tears were our bread
We will feast in your joy
Bind us together in hope**

**Bind us together and make us one
Bind us together and make us truly one
In your love in your peace
In your hope in your joy
Bind us together as one**

SCRIPTURE & SERMON

Mark 14:3-9

Choosing Connection: Curiosity

INVITATION, INSTRUCTIONS, & THE COMMUNION PRAYER

God with us, in the beginning, you gave purpose and promise to planets and stars, seas and mountains, creatures of field, air, and water.

**You invited us, human beings, into partnership,
calling us to care for all of creation, including one another,**

with justice, kindness, and humility.

Time and time again, we have struggled to carry out this call.

Out of your great love, you set into motion the fullness of creation's salvation, reconciliation, and healing by becoming flesh and blood, bone and muscle . . . God with us. In thanksgiving for your incarnate love, we join the chorus of creation singing:

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Across the world, your people share bread made from wheat, rice, beans, or corn—torn into chunks, cut into small squares, pressed into perfectly round wafers. And your people sip sour wine or sweet juice from cups of rough clay, dented tin, or shining silver.

All are signs and symbols of your incarnate love.

As we eat and drink, unite us as one people committed to your reconciling and healing work in the world so that one day

the oppressed will be free, the hurting healed,

and all wrongs made right.

With this purpose and promise in mind, we pray:

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to participate in communion. When prompted, exit toward the center to a serving station. Return to your seat via the outside aisles. The station to the far right is gluten free. Please raise your hand if you are unable to come forward so an elder can come serve you in your seat.

Elders also serve on the north and south sides of the balcony.

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH & THANKSGIVING

Our World Belongs to God

**In our world, where many journey alone,
nameless in the bustling crowd,
evil forces seek to scatter and isolate;
but God, by God's gracious choosing in Christ,
gathers a new community—
those who by God's gift put their trust in Christ.
In the new community all are welcome:
the homeless come home,
the broken find healing,
the sinner makes a new start,
the despised are esteemed,
the least are honored,
and the last are first.
Here the Spirit guides and grace abounds.
So let it be. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

*SONG OF RESPONSE

"O for a World"

Tithes/offerings placed in the baskets at the entrance of the sanctuary are brought forward as a sign of our response to God's call on our lives.

Donations of food and offerings for FoodShare, a Second Reformed Church-Pella Food Shelf mobile food pantry, may be brought forward to the basket in the center aisle. Through FoodShare, friends of SRC pack and deliver bags of groceries for our neighbors in southern Marion County once a month.

Checks should be made payable to the Pella Community Food Shelf.

**O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.**

**We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.**

**The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.**

**O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.**

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING SONG "My Friends, May You Grow in Grace"

*The congregation is invited to stand and turn toward
the center aisle, blessing one another in song.*

**My friends, may you grow in grace,
and in the knowledge of our Lord, and Savior.**

**My friends, may you grow in grace,
and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.**

To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.

To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.

*POSTLUDE

"Jubilate"
Roy Douglas