



Seventeenth Sunday
after Pentecost
September 20, 2026 – 9:45 AM

THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE

“The Lord Is My Light” by Frances Allitsen

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Make Our Church One Joyful Choir”

*SONG OF WORSHIP #104—vv. 1, 3-5 “Hidden Christ, Alive Forever”

Tune: W ZLOBIE LEZY #221

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God with us,

we confess that we have learned how to live at a distance.

When we have allowed discomfort, disagreement,
and difference to keep us disconnected from others,

forgive us.

When we have mistaken avoidance for peace,

forgive us.

When we have chosen to look away or turn away,

forgive us.

When we have kept others at arm’s length,

forgive us.

Here and now, we remember that you are the One who comes
near.

**You draw near to us—not because we have earned it,
but because love refuses to remain at a distance.**

Please use this period of silence for personal reflection.

By your Spirit,

**give us courage to draw near to others
in the midst of discomfort, disagreement, and difference.
Help us to listen before we defend,
to stay when things become awkward,
and to reach toward one another even when it is difficult.
In Jesus' name, we pray . . . amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

based on John 3:16-17

Let us proclaim the truth of God's grace:

**God came in Jesus,
not out of anger but out of love,
not to condemn but to save,
not just for some but for the whole world.**

This is our peace!

Thanks be to God!

*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"

Congregation is invited to join after the first verse.

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

John 1:43-51

Choosing Connection: Proximity

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

*SONG OF THANKSGIVING

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, whose image we all bear;
Praise Christ, whose mercy we all share;
Praise Spirit, making justice grow—
One God from whom all blessings flow! Amen.**

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.

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

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

**Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
In you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
In you and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.**

***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

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" by John Goss

Hidden Christ, Alive for Ever 104

F $\frac{F}{E}$ B $\flat$ $\frac{F}{C}$ $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ Gm7 C $\frac{F}{A}$ B $\flat$ $\frac{F}{A}$ Gm7 $\frac{C7}{G}$ F

1 Hid - den Christ, a - live for ev - er, Sav - ior, Ser - vant, Friend and Lord,
 2 End - less or - bits by our plan - et spin - ning round its speed - ing star
 3 Still your life and way of liv - ing, God - re - veal - ing, Spir - it - blown,
 4 Who can tell, through earth - ly e - ons, all your lov - ing power has done,
 5 Christ our hope, a - live a - mong us, take our love, our work, our prayer.

C $\frac{C}{E}$ Am Bdim $\frac{Bdim}{D}$ F Gsus G7 C $\frac{C}{E}$ F $\frac{C}{G}$ Am $\frac{Dm7}{F}$ G7 C

year by year, un - seen, you of - fer life un - dy - ing, love out - poured.
 can - not trace cre - a - tion's se - cret: why we live and whose we are.
 teach - ing, heal - ing, sins for - giv - ing, meas - ure and in - spire our own,
 chang - ing hearts and shap - ing na - tions, seek - ing all, re - ject - ing none?
 We will trust and tell your pur - pose, brav - ing e - vil and de - spair,

F $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{F7}{A}$ B $\flat$ 2 B $\flat$ Gm Gm7 C $\sharp_2$ C Am Am7 Dm2 Dm B $\flat$ Gm7 C $\sharp_2$ C

Day by day, you walk a - mong us, known and hon - ored, yet con - cealed,
 Je - sus, you a - lone un - cov - er na - ture's rhy - thm, rea - son, rhyme,
 lov - ing earth's de - spised, re - ject - ed, till with them you hang in pain,
 Speech - es fail, but songs soar high - er, trac - ing how, in ev - ery place,
 in your name be - friend - ing, mend - ing, mak - ing peace and set - ting free,

C $\frac{C9}{B\flat}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{F7}{A}$ B $\flat$ F7 Gm Dm $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ Gm $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ C7 F

free - ing, chid - ing, lead - ing, guid - ing, till your glo - ry is re - vealed.
 so your birth - day is our cen - ter: hinge of his - to - ry and time.
 brok - en, bur - ied, res - ur - rec - ted, life laid down, our life to gain.
 twice ten hun - dred years have num - bered count - less works of bound - less grace!
 show - ing, giv - ing and ac - claim - ing signs of joy and ju - bi - lee.