

Worship Service for August 10, 2025

Welcome and Announcements ~

Lisa Towslee

Today ~ Everyone is invited to stay for a special fellowship hour following the morning service celebrating the engagement of Natalie Sommons and Jason Buffenmeyer.

Tuesday ~ The Uplift Cancer Support Group will meet at Linda Hulett's home at 2:30 pm.

Saturday ~ Celebrate Bryan Richheimer's 75th birthday at the Arlington Common (next to Arlington Inn) Saturday, August 16 at 6:15 pm. Summer casual- no presents, please! RSVP Dottie in person or 802-375-6127. No later than today, August 10.

Next Sunday ~ Rev. Dr. Theresa Taylor will be preaching on August 17th. She will also be available for pastoral care needs while Pastor Rebecca is in Maine this week.

Looking Ahead ~ There will be a church business meeting here at church following the worship service on September 7, 2025 for the following purposes:

1. To vote on the proposed new governance for the church board known as the Church Leadership Council (CLC)
2. Discuss construction and temporary relocation plans,
3. To hear, discuss and act upon any other business proper to come before the congregation.

~ Celebrations ~

*Happy Birthday to Bryan Richheimer on Tuesday
and to Kelsey Towslee on Friday!*

Happy Anniversary to Lisa and George Hess on Wednesday!



*Thank you to Russ and Glenna Taxter for the flowers
in loving memory of Aunt Max Chapin.*

Word of Preparation ~

Lisa Towslee

"O Holy Spirit of God, abide with us;
inspire all our thoughts; pervade our imaginations;
suggest all our decisions; order all our doings.
Be with us in our silence and in our speech,
in our haste and in our leisure, in company and in solitude,
in the freshness of the morning and in the weariness of the evening;
and give us grace at all times humbly to rejoice
in Thy mysterious companionship."

~ John Baillie

Prelude ~ Please join in singing "***Come and Find the Quiet Center***"
(#575 in the blue hymnal) as we prepare our hearts for worship.

*Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be*

*Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being touches base
Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun
Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun*

*In the Spirit let us travel open to each other's pain
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain
There's a place for deepest dreaming. There's a time for heart to care
In the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare*

CCLI Song # 4752820

Benjamin Franklin White | Carol Lynn Mizell | Shirley Erena Murray
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Call to Worship ~ Psalm 108:1-5 (ESV) Please read the bold lines.

¹ My heart is steadfast, O God!

I will sing and make melody with all my being!

² Awake, O harp and lyre!

I will awake the dawn!

³ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;

I will sing praises to you among the nations.

⁴ For your steadfast love is great above the heavens;

your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

⁵ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!

Let your glory be over all the earth!

Song ~

“Praise Him Forever”

Praise Him you stars above, galaxies all in motion

Praise Him you thunderclouds ringing throughout the heavens

From every mountaintop to every wild ocean

Oh hear all the universe sing praise

Chorus

Oh sing praise! Let everything that breathes, let all the earth proclaim

~ Great is the Lord our God! Praise Him forever!

Let all that is within me magnify His name

Great is the Lord our God! Praise Him forever! (Praise Him forever!)

Praise Him you beating hearts. Sing for the life He's given

Praise Him you rescued ones. Join in the sound of heaven

From every mountaintop to every wild ocean

Oh hear all the universe sing praise

Chorus

Bridge ~ Hear the holy roar. Hear this anthem rise

In the house of God all creation cries [repeat 2 times]

Chorus [repeating the last line]

CCLI Song # 7117454 Chris Tomlin | Jonathan Smith | Phil Wickham

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Song ~

“O Praise the Name (Anastasis)”

I cast my mind to Calvary where Jesus bled and died for me

I see His wounds His hands His feet. My Savior on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears.

They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb

The entrance sealed by heavy stone. Messiah still and all alone

Chorus

O praise the Name of the Lord our God!

O praise His Name forevermore!

For endless days we will sing Your praise ~

Oh Lord, oh Lord, our God!

Then on the third at break of dawn, the Son of heaven rose again

O trampled death where is your sting?

The angels roar for Christ the King

Chorus

He shall return in robes of white. The blazing sun shall pierce the night

And I will rise among the saints, my gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

Interlude ~ Chorus

Ending ~ O Lord, O Lord, Our God (x2)

CCLI Song # 7037787

Benjamin Hastings | Dean Ussher | Marty Sampson

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Praying Together ~

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

Song ~

“Awakening”

*In our hearts Lord, in this nation ~ awakening
Holy Spirit, we desire awakening*

Chorus

***For You and You alone
Awake my soul! Awake my soul and sing!
For the world You love
Your will be done, let Your will be done in me
In Your presence, in Your power ~ awakening
For this moment, in this hour ~ awakening***

Chorus

Bridge ~ *Like the rising sun that shines
From the darkness comes a light
I hear Your voice and this is my awakening
(REPEAT)*

Ending ~ *In our hearts Lord
In the nations awakening*

CCLI Song # 5677399

Chris Tomlin | Reuben Morgan

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Introducing the Sermon ~ Pastor Rebecca Sommons

Scripture Text ~ Acts 10:1-35 (NIV)

¹ At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius,
a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment.

² He and all his family were devout and God-fearing;
he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.

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³ One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision.

He distinctly saw an angel of God,
who came to him and said, “Cornelius!”

⁴ Cornelius stared at him in fear. “What is it, Lord?” he asked.
The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor
have come up as a memorial offering before God.

⁵ Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon
who is called Peter.

⁶ He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.”

⁷ When the angel who spoke to him had gone,
Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier
who was one of his attendants.

⁸ He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

⁹ About noon the following day as they were on their journey
and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray.

¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat,
and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.

¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet
being let down to earth by its four corners.

¹² It contained all kinds of four-footed animals,
as well as reptiles and birds.

¹³ Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.”

¹⁴ “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied.

“I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.”

¹⁵ The voice spoke to him a second time,
“Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”

¹⁶ This happened three times,
and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

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¹⁷ While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate. ¹⁸ They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

¹⁹ While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."

²¹ Peter went down and said to the men, "I'm the one you're looking for. Why have you come?"

²² The men replied, "We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say."

²³ Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests.

The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along.

²⁴ The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.

²⁵ As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. ²⁶ But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

²⁷ While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people.

²⁸ He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean.

²⁹ So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?"

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³⁰ Cornelius answered: "Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon.

Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me ³¹ and said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. ³² Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.'

³³ So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us."

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

Sermon ~ *"Following the Holy Spirit's Leading"*

Song ~ *"All the Way My Savior Leads Me"*

*All the way my Savior leads me. Who have I to ask beside?
How could I doubt His tender mercy Who through life has been my guide
All the way my Savior leads me. Cheers each winding path I tread
And gives me grace for every trial, feeds me with the living Bread*

Chorus

***You lead me and keep me from falling
You carry me close to Your heart
And surely Your goodness and mercy will follow me
All the way my Savior leads me. O the fullness of His love!
O the sureness of His promise in the triumph of His blood
When my spirit clothed immortal wings its flight to realms of day
This my song through endless ages ~ Jesus led me all the way
Jesus led me all the way!***

Chorus

All the way my Savior leads me. All the way my Savior leads me

CCLI Song # 5203268 Chris Tomlin | Fanny Jane Crosby | Matt Redman
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