

# FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 28, 2020 - 10:00 AM

## Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223

www.livingspringscolumbia.org



*The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.*

### GATHERING: GOD-STORIES

*You may send your photos and/or God Stories to [GodAroundUs@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:GodAroundUs@livingspringscolumbia.org). Where have you seen or experienced God at work in yourself, in the lives of others, or the world this past week? Names are NOT required.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We stand as able*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)*

Pastor: Reconciling God,

People: **we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Pastor: Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

*We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.*

## GATHERING SONG

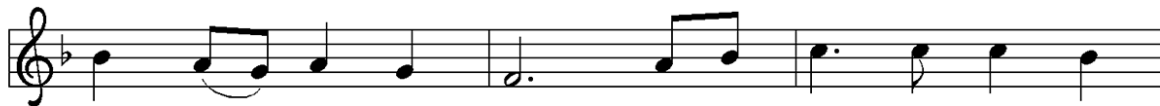
*"All Are Welcome"*



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
claim the faith of Je - sus: All are wel - come,  
end to fear and dan - ger:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

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## APOSTOLIC GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**People:** **Amen.**

*We are seated*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & "SCATTERING THE SEED" BLESSING

Rev. Eric Fink

*Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. All may bring coins or dollars for the bucket collection to help those in need.*

*This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

## FIRST READING

*Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17)*

Lector: A reading from Jeremiah.

*The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet." (Jeremiah 28:5-9)*

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 89:1-4, 15-18

Lector: Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

**People: For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

Lector: "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

**People: 'I will establish your line forever,  
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"**

Lector: Happy are the people who know the festal shout!  
They walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.

**People: They rejoice daily in your name;  
they are jubilant in your righteousness.**

Lector: For you are the glory of their strength,  
and by your favor our might is exalted.

**People: Truly, our shield belongs to the LORD;  
our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

## SECOND READING

*Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.*

Lector: A reading from Romans.

*Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:12-23)*

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*We stand for the reading of the Gospel*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

## GOSPEL LESSON

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**People:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*[Jesus said to the twelve:] "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward." (Matthew 10:40–42)*

**Pastor:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We are seated*

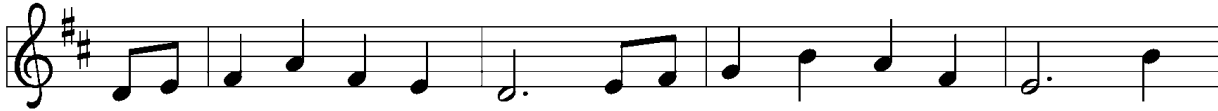
## MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Fink



## HYMN OF THE DAY

"This Is My Father's World"



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all  
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the  
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na-ture sings, and round me rings the mu-sic of the spheres.  
morn-ing light, the lil-y white, de-clare their mak-er's praise.  
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul-er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of  
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the  
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won-ders wrought.  
rus-ting grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.  
Lord is king, let heav-en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

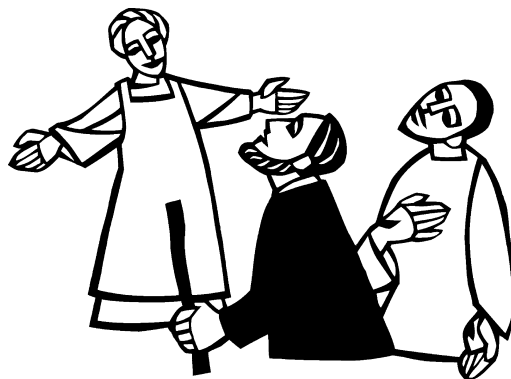
*Text: Maltbie D. Babcock*

## APOSTLES' CREED

**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

+ A brief silence +

Pastor: God of companionship, encourage our relationships with our siblings in Christ. Bless our conversations. Shape our shared future and give us hearts eager to join in a festal shout of praise. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: God of abundance, you make your creation thrive and grow to provide all that we need. Inspire us to care for our environment and be attuned to where the earth is crying out. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: God of mercy, your grace is poured out for all. Inspire authorities, judges, and politicians to act with compassion. Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: God of care, accompany all who are in deepest need. Comfort those who are sick, grieving, lonely, or abandoned. We pray especially for: *Margaret Blank; Ed Brennan; Tammy Mancuso; Lee Collins; Melody Hair; Kellee/Garrett Flores; Charles Kauffman; the Tenhover family; the McMurphy family; James Nandras; Carrie Malyerick; Don Woodruff; Charles Levitt; Jack Ramsey; Danny Weaver; Jason Anderson; Michelle Williams; the Kwiecinski family; Kyle Humphries; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...* Renew the spirits of all who call upon you. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: God of community, we give thanks for this and every congregation. Give us passion to embrace your mission and the vision to recognize where you are leading us. Teach us how to live more faithfully with each other. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: God of love, you gather in your embrace all who have died, *especially Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyon, whom we commemorate today.* Keep us steadfast in our faith and renew our trust in your promise. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: God of healing, we pray for our nation and the world as we face ongoing uncertainties around coronavirus, especially in these days of its resurgence. Protect the most vulnerable among us, those who are currently sick, in isolation, or awaiting test results. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care/essential workers, especially as their daily work still puts them at risk. Guide us as we consider how to respond with care in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear or self-centeredness, but with compassion, concern, and acts of loving service for others, trusting that you abide with us always. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## SHARING OF PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**People: And also with you.**

*We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."*

## OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

*Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.*

Google Play



App Store



## OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

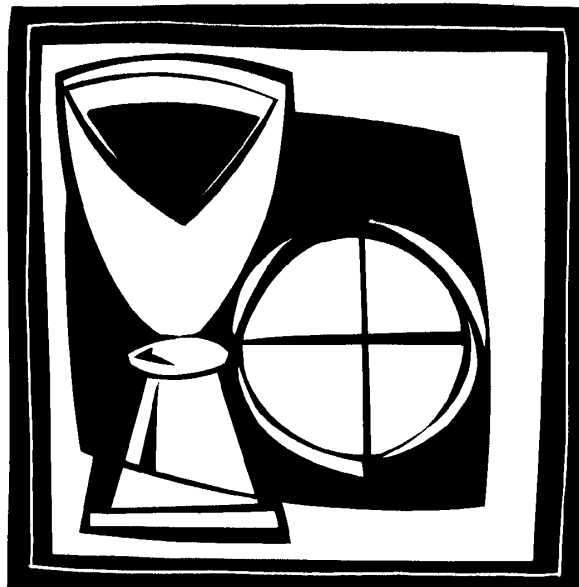
Pastor: We have been made one as the body of Christ through the waters of baptism. In our journey of faith & life, we have been fed with Christ's own body and blood. Even though we fast from the Lord's Supper on this occasion, we give thanks for the gift of Holy Communion, as we look forward to the joy of that time we will be gathered and fed at your table.

Pastor: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we offer our praise and give you thanks. When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation; David fought Goliath; the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he conquered death and granted the people your life.

We give you thanks and praise for the gift of Holy Communion and for the blessing it brings to your people. Even though we abstain from your meal for reasons you understand, we sense the power of your forgiveness and grace offered to us and the world through your Son. Awaiting that time when we will share in his meal, we still remember, and cherish in our hearts, the words uplifting this great and glorious blessing which Jesus gave us:

**People: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me."**

*We take time for prayer and reflection as we sing together, giving thanks to God for all the times we have been fed with our Lord's body & blood—and looking forward to that day when we will all be gathered again around the Lord's Table.*

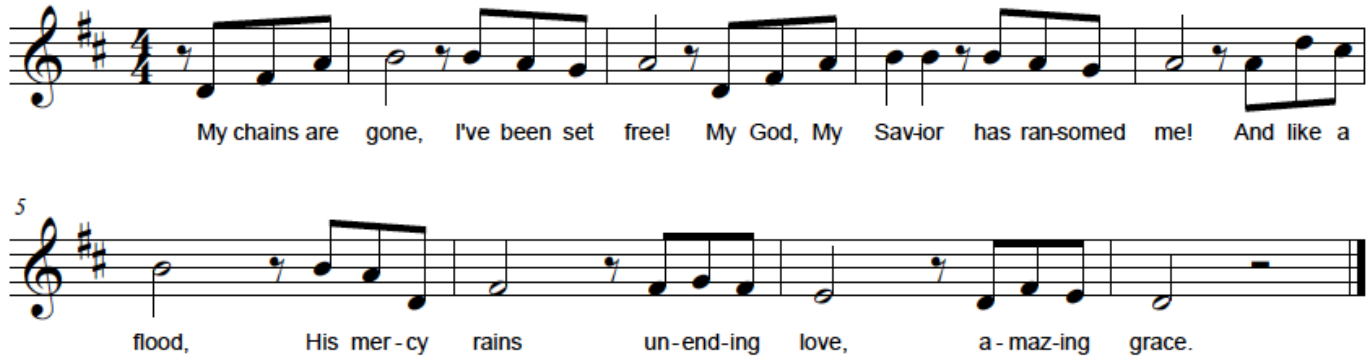


## SONG FOR REFLECTION

### "Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone"

1. *Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see. (to Verse 2)*

2. *T'was grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed. (to Chorus)*



My chains are gone, I've been set free! My God, My Savior has ransomed me! And like a  
flood, His mer-cy rains un-end-ing love, a-maz-ing grace.

3. *The Lord has promised good to me  
his Word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures. (to Chorus, 2x)*  
*...unending love, amazing grace.  
...unending love, amazing grace.*

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## LORD'S PRAYER

**Pastor:** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## SR. YOUTH MYSTERY MISSION EXPERIENCE - BLESSING

*Following the reading of Hope from Romans 5:1-5, our Youth Mission Participants repeat these words:*

**YOUTH:** We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul. (Hebrews 6:19)

**YOUTH:** Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness. (2 Corinthians 3:12a)

*Following the prayer, we join with parents & adult leaders in offering this blessing of hope for our youth:*

**People:** **May the God of hope  
fill you with all joy and peace  
in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)**





## SENDING SONG

### "All the People Said Amen"

You are not alone if you are lonely  
When you feel afraid you're not the only  
We are all the same in need of mercy  
To be forgiven and be free  
It's all you got to lean on  
But thank God it's all you need (Chorus)

If you're rich or poor well it don't matter  
Weak or strong you know love is what we're after  
We're all broken but we're all in this together  
God knows we stumble and fall  
And He so loved the world  
He sent His son to save us all (Chorus/Bridge)

#### CHORUS

And all the peo - ple said, "A - men." And all the peo - ple said, "A -  
men." Give thanks to the Lord, \_ for His love \_ nev - er ends. \_  
And all the peo - ple said, "A - men."

#### BRIDGE

Bless-ed are \_ the poor in spir - it who are tom a - part. Bless-ed are \_  
\_ the per - se - cut - ed and the pure in heart. Bless-ed are \_ the peo - ple hun - gry for an -  
-oth - er start, \_ for theirs is the king - dom, the king - dom of God. \_\_\_\_

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+ WE CONCLUDE OUR WORSHIP OUTSIDE, REMEMBERING THAT JESUS SENDS US INTO THE WORLD +

## BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

**Pastor:** Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

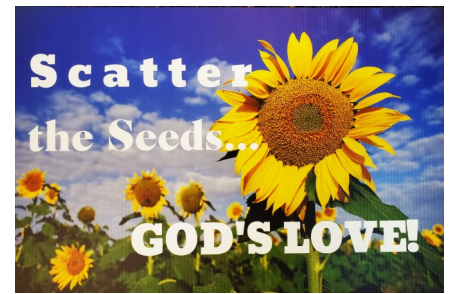
**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** Go in peace. Grow deeper in Grace, deeper in Love, deeper in Christ—who is always with you.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

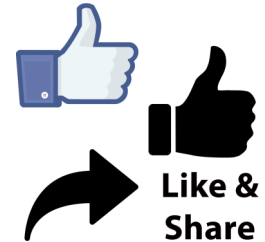
***Scatter the Seed of God's Love this summer:***  
**LIKE & SHARE this Streamed Worship Service**  
**via Facebook or YouTube!**

# Scatter the Seed of God's Love: 2-PART Congregation Summer Challenge!



## #1) LIKE & SHARE our streamed worship service each Sunday

with all your friends and/ or a special person who might need some encouragement  
--- via Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, email a link – however you choose!



## #2) Share 1000 SUNFLOWER SEED PACKS in Our Community!

A sunflower (or “Son-flower”) can be a special sign of the love of Jesus, God’s Son, shining in our world. We have 1000 sunflower seed packs with special accompanying cards. We ask you to plant 1 pack at your home – and then share 5 packs with someone in your neighborhood or workplace or wherever (you can leave a pack in a neighbor’s paper box, put it on their door, hand it so someone personally, however God moves you.)



## Get Your Seed Packs as Follows:

1. From our “Good News Farmer” at the 8:30 Outdoor Worship on June 28.
2. From our “Good News Farmer” at Communion Distribution from 11:30-12:30 on July 5.
3. Pick them up from the Office Entranceway during the week (use your fob).
4. Call the Church Office so a “Good News Farmer” can deliver them to your doorstep.

## One Person at a Time... Deeper in Christ, Deeper in Grace, Deeper in Love.

Our LS theme for 2020! Plant a seed in someone’s heart to be a reminder of God’s love – that no matter what challenges today may bring, you are special and someone cares!

*The COVID pandemic has limited our usual Good News Ministries like Rush Hour, Beer 'n Hymns, Good News Walkers. But we are not letting that stop our mission to share the Good News of Jesus in our community – and we are asking the entire congregation to join us in this 2-part summer effort!*

# LS Sr. Youth Virtual Mystery Mission Trip "A Journey for Hope!"

Monday, June 29 + Tuesday, June 30 + Wednesday, July 1



Once again, our Youth are providing an example for all of us by being witnesses to the truth that Christ's church is not closed, but carrying on our ministry in just new & creative ways! Since we can't travel in-person for our summer mission trip on the days we scheduled, the youth have divided up into sub-groups – and each sub-group has picked a mystery location somewhere in the world where the Hope of God's Love has been shining brightly throughout all the challenges of this year. The youth have reached out to a special ministry center & hope sites in each worldwide location. They will be making a virtual trip to those sites and meet with ministry leader(s) next Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. At night, the youth will again gather on-line for closing worship and daily reflection, just like we would do if we were on the road.

*Next Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, we will send out emails to the congregation, revealing the mystery worldwide location the youth are virtually visiting – and if possible, we will post a subsequent link to some of their Zoom/Google visits with the hope sites.*

**Here's how you can help!** Since we cannot do volunteer work at the actual ministry sites, the Youth are taking \$\$ they would have used for travel and donating it to the Hope Ministry they have selected in their worldwide city. To make a donation to support their efforts, simply use the "Youth Mission Projects" button on our LS Givelify App (or drop off a check at the church office, payable to Living Springs and labeled for Youth Mission Projects).

Our Youth and Adult Leaders have been working hard on this amazing Mission project – please uplift them in your prayers next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday! And stay tuned for details about their big virtual "GraceWorks from Home" servant week in July...

## ✝ COMMEMORATIONS FOR TODAY ✝

### **Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202**

This important early church leader tried very hard to hold to the faith handed down by the apostles. An opponent of the movement known as gnosticism, Irenaeus was one of the first to speak of the church as catholic, or linked together.

### **JUNE "ALTAR FLOWERS"**

Since we are not meeting in the sanctuary to enjoy the flower donations, the following have given monetary gifts in lieu of the flowers on the altar:

**June 1:** Gift to *Disaster Response* given to God's glory in honor of the people of Living Springs with thanksgiving for 7 years of partnership in ministry, from Kris & Eric Fink.

**June 14:** Gift to God's glory with thanksgiving to God for all the blessings in my life for the past year, from Patricia Brouwer Jolly.

**June 21:** Gift to *LS Child Development Center* given to God's glory in loving memory of Anne Mancuso by Jerry Mancuso.

**June 28:** Gift to *LS Child Development Center* given to God's glory in loving memory of Jim Hyman by Sue Hyman

# God's Love, Our Hearts & Faces!



## One Life Deeper in 2020!

Our prayerful goal is that God will work in every LS disciple to have an impact of faith and hope in the life of one person during 2020. **What shoes might they be wearing?** It may be someone you know already—at work, at home, at school, in the neighborhood, in your daily life. It may be a stranger whom God will bring to you this year. How will the Spirit work through you to bring someone deeper in 2020? **Deeper in Christ, Deeper in Grace, Deeper in Love!**

**BUILD RELATIONSHIPS: inviting, involving, mentoring, discipling relationships one person at a time!**

**BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: for the work of God's kingdom in our community and world!**

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE: with those who are hurting, alone, marginalized, or feeling unloved!**

**SHARING GOD'S STORIES: so that we do not remain silent about God's ongoing work in the world!**

### FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

#### *On Being Welcomed*

Jesus emphasizes many times that his disciples are his representatives in the world. When people encounter his followers, they encounter Jesus. This is a phenomenal calling that certainly points to God's grace in the lives of Jesus' followers. We couldn't possibly claim to be the presence of Jesus without the Spirit and God's grace poured on us in baptism.

One way the church helps people to know God in Jesus is by showing up, being present, engaging authentically with others. When Jesus sent his disciples out to witness to the kingdom in words and deeds, he sent them out not only to welcome others but to be welcomed.

In a time when many of our human encounters are mediated by electronic social networks and distant forms of communication, we might lose sight of what it means to welcome others and to be welcomed in homes, at meals, or in another person's place of worship. It can be humbling to allow another person to welcome us and to show us hospitality and grace.

When we allow others to welcome us in whatever way they do, we allow some encounter with Christ to occur. Perhaps it is meeting for coffee or going for a walk. Maybe it means going into another person's neighborhood that is new to us. Maybe it's receiving dinner as another prepares it, humbly or extravagantly, in their home, or as we join them at their favorite restaurant.

Have you ever been invited to someone's home or event and turned them down? You may have had good reason, or maybe you just didn't feel like going. What does it mean to allow others to welcome us into their lives by accepting their invitations? It is a blessing to them. It is also, as Jesus tells us, a welcoming of God who sent Jesus and us to show love by letting others show us hospitality.

## June Books of the Month: Galatians & Ephesians

