

Astoria First United Methodist Church  
July 25, 2021

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*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**GATHERING MUSIC** **Kristin Hammond**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** **Mary Frances Gunn**

**CENTERING MUSIC** *“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”* **Kristin Hammond**

**WORDS OF WELCOME** **Mary Frances Gunn**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** **Janet Todd**

Holy One, you have covered the barren places in our lives with the riches of your grace. In the agony and emptiness of our sin, you have filled us with forgiveness. From a small portion of food, you have given us sustenance for a lifetime. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen!

**OPENING PRAYER** **Mary Frances Gunn**

Holy One, we bow our hearts before you this day. Strengthen us in our innermost being and dwell in our hearts through faith. May we be rooted and grounded in Christ, whose love is beyond all knowledge. Help us comprehend even the smallest part of the beautiful mystery of your grace. Grant that we may experience the fullness of your presence with us. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING** *“Ephesians 3:14-21”* **Janet Todd**

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *“Scherzo”* by Von Weber **Kristin Hammond**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (read by the liturgist) Janet Todd

Who among us hasn't wondered if God really exists? Who among us hasn't recoiled in revulsion when reflecting upon the depraved and loathsome acts we might be capable of? Who among us hasn't felt the agony of a life lived apart from God's love? Yet in our emptiness, in the depths of our despair, the Lord seeks us out; the Lord hears our cries; the Lord becomes our refuge and our strength. In you, gentle savior, our hearts are glad; we rejoice in your salvation. We pray to you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** Mary Frances Gunn

The love of God is your firm foundation; by faith you are rooted deeply in the Lord. May you know the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. May you attain the fullness of being, the fullness of life that God brings.

**HYMN OF PREPARATION** (vs 1, 2, 3) Congregation

***"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"*** UMH#462

*(Projected on Screen by Power Point)*

*We ask the congregation to please read (or hum) along as the piano plays*

**GOSPEL LESSON** "John 6:1-11" Mary Frances Gunn

**WORSHIP IN SONG** Mary Frances Gunn

1 Thessalonians 5:18 "Now Thank We All Our God" UMH #102

1 Corinthians 3:11 "The Solid Rock" or "My Hope is Built" UMH #368

Hebrew 13:5b-6 "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" UMH #479

Ephesians 3:17-19 "Jesus Loves Me" UMH #191

**JOYS AND CONCERNS** Mary Frances Gunn

**PASTORAL PRAYER** Mary Frances Gunn

**LORD'S PRAYER** Mary Frances Gunn

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom (kin-dom) 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, (kin-dom), the power, and the glory, forever.*

**AMEN**

**BENEDICTION** (sung) Mary Frances Gunn

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC  
as they join us for worship.**

**We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.  
Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.  
If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.  
We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.**