



I've been  
meaning  
to ask...

where are you from?

# Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost ~ AUGUST 15, 2021

## WELCOME TO WELLSTREAM WORSHIP

We welcome you in the name of Christ to this digital form of worship. The Wellstream is a digital ministry that allows Muhlenberg Lutheran Church to **livestream our 11:00 am Sunday morning worship services** through our Social Media platforms. You are encouraged to join in all parts of worship, responding and worshipping as you would in person. Everything you need is printed in this worship booklet so that you may follow along with the worship leaders. Portions of worship in bold print are to be spoken/sung by the whole congregation, wherever you are. We stand for portions of our worship service, and invite you to do this as it is comfortable. ***If you are watching this service LIVE, we encourage you to engage with other members of the community in the comments on either Facebook or YouTube—responding to prayers, offering prayer requests, or sharing the peace.***

We recognize that **Worship** and the formation of **Community** are central to living out our mission in the world. Worship is where we gather around the true Wellspring of God's Grace—the Word and Sacraments of Jesus Christ—in order that we might find renewal, and become a source of this same grace in our daily living. Worship, and the community we find there, is at the heart of who we are. However, in this season of Social Distancing in the midst of COVID-19, the best way to be community, is to not be *in* community. This service is not meant to replace face-to-face community, and digital worship cannot provide the sacramental nature of worship to those who engage online. However, this can be a powerful tool in this difficult season for connecting God's people when life gets in the way and *equipping all people to live out Christ's love.*

## CONNECT WITH US LIVE AT 11:00 AM

To access the service LIVE, visit our [Facebook Page](#) or [YouTube Channel](#) at 11:00 am. Both are also accessible from the homepage of our website.

## SUNDAYS AT MUHLENBERG VIA ZOOM

Join us for fellowship via Zoom each Sunday from 8:30-11:00 am. We'll use "Breakout Rooms" via Zoom to ensure that everyone has a space to participate in this time together! We begin with a communion service at 8:30. Sunday School classes begin at 9:30 am, and all are welcome to join classes or stay in "The Gathering Area" for conversation. Full group Coffee Hour begins at 10:30 am. If you'd like a private word with the pastor on call, or would like a room to catch up with a small group, we have private breakout rooms for that! You're welcome to join whenever you'd like! Join each week at this link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/84731416878>.

## GIVE ONLINE

While we aren't meeting in person, the work of the church has not ceased. Please don't forget your financial gifts to God's mission in this place. You may mail your check to the church (281 E. Market St, Harrisonburg, VA 22801) or give online at [www.muhlenberglutheran.org/give](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org/give).

## BEST PRACTICES FOR 'ATTENDING' CHURCH ONLINE

- Get out of bed and get dressed—*it will put you in the right mindset to worship*
- Go through your normal Sunday routine—*minus the "hurry up we're running late" part*
- Gather your family together—*avoid distractions and make worship something for all*
- Project the feed on your largest screen—*it will feel more like you're "there"*
- Sing along loud and proud—*yes, it feels weird, but it feels weird for those leading worship in an empty room too!*
- Engage in the message—*let this hour be the beginning of a conversation with your friends and family, call and check in with others who "went to church"*

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## MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH: A WELLSPRING OF GOD'S GRACE

Open ✚ Authentic ✚ Relational ✚ Serving

Pastor Lauren Eanes

Pastor Alex Zuber

281 E. Market Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 434-3496  
[www.muhlenberglutheran.org](http://www.muhlenberglutheran.org)

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

*I've been meaning to ask ... Where are you from?*

### GATHERING

*We come from our homes, our labor, our struggles, and our joys – which we share in fellowship as a Christian community. We are gathered together as God's people to worship. In this first part of our worship, we share together honestly – our sins in confession, our joy in forgiveness.*

### WELCOME

**CHILDREN'S TIME** *Children are invited forward for a brief message with the pastor.*

### PRELUDE

*Ask Ye What Great Things I Know* (arr. J. Cornell, b. 1942)

Organ Solo

*(We stand)*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The congregation turns and faces the baptismal font.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

If we were to call the prayer of confession by another name,  
I would call it a moment for truth telling—  
A moment to pause, to reflect,  
to be honest about the places we want to grow  
and the way we need God's help.  
Family of faith, there is power in honesty.  
So pray with me. We worship a loving and gracious God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

When people heard that Jesus was from Nazareth,  
they asked, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

**We confess, God of beginnings, that we have asked the same question.**

**Can anything good come from that side of town?**

**From a school with poor test scores?**

**From a criminal history?**

**From the opposite political party?**

**From a history of addiction?**

**From a faith with doubt?**

**From a church with faults?**

**Holy God, forgive us for doubting that you are in all things at all times.**

**Open our eyes to see your goodness, not as something that resides here or there, but as the expansive grace that it is.**

**Can anything good come from there?**

**Yes. Always yes. Amen.**

Family of faith, if you ever ask yourself,  
 “Can anything good come from this messy and human life of mine?”  
 Remember this: God is always whispering, “Yes.”  
 You were created in the image of God.  
 Your origin story is one of goodness and love from the very beginning.  
 So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:  
**God is here. God is at work among us.**  
**We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** ~ we sing verses 1, 2 & 4

*The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar,  
 reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence and love of God.*

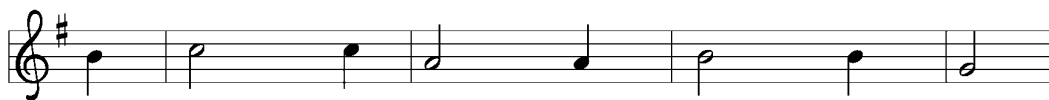
**O Spirit of Life**



1 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,  
 2 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,  
 3 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,  
 4 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God,



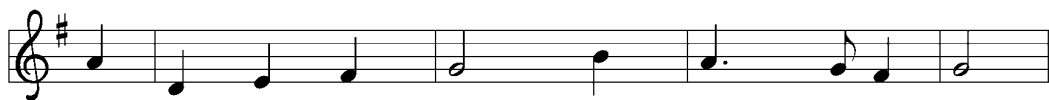
in ev - 'ry need you bring us aid,  
 in - crease our faith in our dear Lord;  
 make us to love your sa - cred word;  
 en - light - en us by that same word;



pro - ceed - ing forth from heav - en's throne,  
 un - less your grace the pow'r should give,  
 the ho - ly flame of love im - part,  
 teach us to know God's ra - diant love,



from God, the Fa - ther and the Son;  
 none can be - lieve in Christ and live;  
 that char - i - ty may warm each heart;  
 lead us to Christ who reigns a - bove;




O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.  
 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.  
 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.  
 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.

## GREETING

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

## KYRIE


*Refrain*



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



*Refrain*  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all places, you breathed into each of us the breath of life and named us beloved. Guide us in seeing our own goodness and dignity, not in where we are from, but in our unity with you. Give us ears to hear our neighbors' story and fill our hearts with holy curiosity, through the love of Christ and your ever-moving Spirit. **Amen.**

(We sit)

## WORD

The first half of our liturgy focuses on the Word of God through the reading of scripture and preaching. The pattern of reading, singing, reading, singing is an ancient one, which comes from Christianity's roots in Jewish synagogue worship.

### FIRST READING ~ Genesis 2:4b-15

<sup>4</sup>These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord GOD made the earth and the heavens, <sup>5</sup>when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up — for the Lord GOD had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; <sup>6</sup>but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground — <sup>7</sup>then the Lord GOD formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. <sup>8</sup>And the Lord GOD planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup>Out of the ground the Lord GOD made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>10</sup>A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. <sup>11</sup>The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; <sup>12</sup>and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. <sup>13</sup>The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. <sup>14</sup>The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. <sup>15</sup>The Lord GOD took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

The reading concludes:

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(We stand)

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

## GOSPEL ~ John 1:35-51

The Holy Gospel according to ... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>35</sup>The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup>He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup>He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

*After the reading:*

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(We sit)*

### SERMON

Pastor Alex Zuber

*Silence for reflection follows.*

*(We stand)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY ~ Creating God, Your Fingers Trace** *we sing verses 1, 3 & 4*

*~see next page~*

## Creating God, Your Fingers Trace



1 Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the bold de -  
2 Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's mys - t'ries  
3 Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all now de -  
4 In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one fam - 'ly



signs of far - thest space; let sun and moon and stars and  
known or yet un - told; let wa - ter's frag - ile blend with  
spised for creed or race; let peace, de - scend - ing like a  
with a bil - lion names; let ev - 'ry life be touched by



light and what lies hid - den praise your might.  
air, en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care.  
dove, make known on earth your heal - ing love.  
grace un - til we praise you face to face.

### APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith:

**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

*After each petition:*

... Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

*Have a prayer concern to share? Share it live or email it to [info@muhlenberglutheran.org](mailto:info@muhlenberglutheran.org).*

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:

**"Peace be with you."**

(We sit)

## THANKSGIVING

*We give thanks for the saving word and all the gifts of God, who then sends us to share the good news we have received and to care for those in need.*

**OFFERING ~ Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It** (arr. M Hayes, 1998)

Piano Solo

## OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, **you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Holy God, our Maker, our Healer, our Teacher,  
your magnificent creation springs forth from your Word.  
All that has life and breath praises your name.  
For your Word that sustains the earth, we thank you, O God.  
**We thank you, O God.**

You sent us Jesus, your Word, to renew the world.  
He healed the sick, fed the hungry,  
preached your mercy, and called us to faith.  
For your Word in our Lord Christ, we praise you, O God.  
**We praise you, O God.**

Nourish us with the Spirit of your Word,  
that we may grow in grace, bearing the fruits of redemption,  
and sharing your strength and beauty with all the world.  
For your Word in our lives, we entreat you, O God.  
**We entreat you, O God.**

Accept our thanksgiving and receive our prayer,  
for the sake of your living Word, Jesus our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

## **SENDING**

*Our worship does not end, but continues in the world. In our daily lives we are called to be ministers of God's love and mercy as we live and serve by the power of the risen Christ.*

## **SENDING HYMN ~This Little Light of Mine**

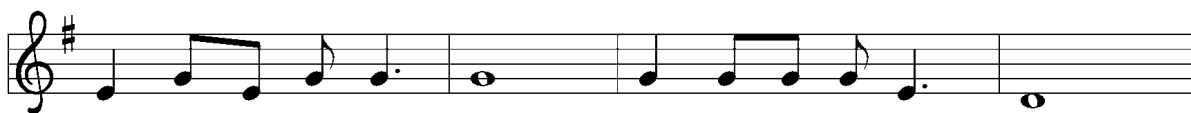
*The congregation turns & faces the cross reminding us that we follow Christ into the world & our daily lives.*

*~see next page~*

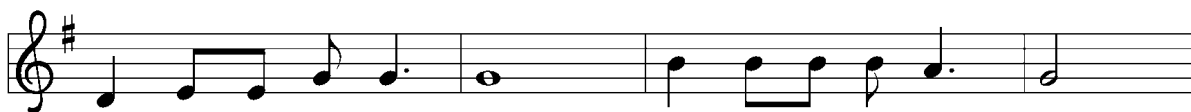
## This Little Light of Mine



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

### BLESSING

Family of faith, as you leave this place, may God grant you the curiosity to counter assumptions, the vulnerability to befriend, the bravery to speak your truth, the wisdom to listen, the strength to ask for help, the resiliency to chose love, even when it's hard, and the awareness of the +Holy Spirit always beside you. **Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

In the name of the Great Connector—Love itself, go in peace.

**We go to be: Open + Authentic + Relational + Serving**

**Thanks Be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

*Prelude in F Major* (Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, 1805-1847)

Organ Solo

## **PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

**PREACHING & PRESIDING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

**LAY ASSISTING MINISTER** ~ Lori Reich

**LECTOR** ~ Steve Reich

**MUSICIANS** ~ Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister

Alice Wightman, Organ Soloist (Prelude)

Cynthia Page, Cantor

Aaron Looney, Organ Soloist (recorded at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren on a Schantz organ)

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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*Some of today's liturgy is adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).*

## ABOUT OUR WORSHIP...

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:** + All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins, but no one should feel compelled. Both our confession of sin and God's promise of mercy are rooted in our baptism. We come before God recalling our brokenness, but even more God's great grace.

**GATHERING HYMN:** We sing as the Spirit gathers us for worship and this hymn sets the tone for the day.

**KYRIE:** The Kyrie is an ancient piece of service liturgy that may date back to the second century. Kyrie Eleison is Greek for "Lord have mercy" and is in reference to both New and Old Testament scriptures which use the same words and pattern.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** The Prayer of the Day collects the themes from today's scripture readings.

**READINGS AND PSALM:** Liturgy, from the Greek, means "the work of the people." Our worship is designed so we all take part. We are far more than just spectators. The scripture readings follow a four-year cycle called the Narrative Lectionary. We are connected with other Christians all over the world, in many denominations, reading the same texts. The Psalms were the original Hymns in Holy Scripture, used by God's people for personal and corporate devotion. They continue to be prayed, sung and read by God's people all over the world as a rich and honest expression of faith. We stand during the gospel because we believe our Lord is present with us in the reading.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** This hymn complements the day's scripture readings and sermon.

**NICENE & APOSTLES' CREEDS:** The creeds (statements of faith) date back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century and contain the basics of what Christians around the world hold to be true. The use of the non-capitalized word "catholic" means simply worldwide or universal.

**PRAYERS:** We pray as a community. The assisting minister leads this time to gather the prayers of all, and at his/ her invitation you may add others aloud or silently in your heart.

**PEACE:** Much more than a pleasant greeting — we do this to proclaim God's promise of peace to one another.

**OFFERING:** Our offerings are collected and dedicated to our Lord's service. They support the ministries of Christ's church in this congregation, the Virginia Synod, ELCA, and our global mission partners.

**OFFERING SONG:** This song becomes our prayer as our gifts are collected and dedicated to our Lord's service.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY:** The Great Thanksgiving is an ancient part of the worship that proclaims our thanks for the gifts of God in the meal. The "Holy, Holy, Holy" echoes the heavenly chorus in Isaiah 6:3 and the crowds of Mark 11:9 as Jesus enters Jerusalem. This reminds us that we are in the presence of a God identified both by holiness and humility. Some will make the sign of the cross at the announcement of God's presence: "Blessed is He..."

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:** Eucharist is the Greek word for thanks. These are the words and actions, the commands and promises of Jesus at the last supper with his disciples as recorded in scripture: 1 Cor. 11:23-26, Matt. 26:26-29, Luke 22:15-20.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:** Jesus taught his disciples this prayer. In this prayer, all our needs and concerns are addressed. See ELW page 1163 for Martin Luther's explanation of this prayer in the small catechism.

**COMMUNION:** The "last supper" was a meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. He invited them to share this meal in the future to remember him and he promised to be present in a mysterious, but very real sense. All who desire to participate are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Feel free to remain seated if you prefer.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN:** We gather once more in song as our worship concludes, and we prepare to take this good news into the world.

**BLESSING:** In this blessing we are reminded we bear God's name as we depart to live out our baptism, serving our neighbor and spreading the gospel. It reaffirms our mission and reminds us that if we are to be a Wellspring of Grace, we need to be renewed first through Water, Word, and Meal—the means of grace God has given to us.