

**Mutual Love and Hospitality:
A Joint Service of Hilton area churches**

First United Methodist Church
Hilton Baptist Church
Hilton Christian Church
Hilton Presbyterian Church
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Trinity Lutheran Church



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost & The Lord's Supper

August 28, 2022
10:00 AM

This service is being live streamed and will be on Facebook & YouTube.

Mask wearing is recommended but not required. Following St. Paul's guidance in 1 Corinthians 8, we seek to ground our choices in our care for one another, especially those at higher risk for COVID.

Words in **bold** are to be spoken by the congregation.

† Please stand as you are able.

Prelude *Behold, I Have Loved You* Robin Wolaver
St. Andrew's Choir

† Opening Hymn *God of Grace and God of Glory* Hymn 577

Welcome The Rev. Elizabeth Lutz

† Call to Worship

Clergy: The Lord said, "I would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you... I will never leave you nor forsake you."

All: ***We come together from our various churches this morning to celebrate the mutual love Christians have for one another; to offer and receive hospitality; and to be fed and nourished by God so that we may carry out our ministry of love and service in our community and beyond.***

† Prayer of the Day

God our Father, you alone are worthy of honor and praise. You have promised never to leave us or forsake us. You have given us your Son Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday and today and forever. Open our eyes to see the world as you see it. Give us the wisdom to witness your presence in all people. Transform us in love, grow us in faith, and call us to love with a full heart, sharing your promises with all people. Amen.

Call to Confession

God invites us to mutual love. But to find that mutuality, we must release our need for honor, our desire for privilege. In humility let us seek forgiveness, trusting in the promises of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, forgive us for exalting ourselves and mocking the humble. Instead of trusting in your strength, we choose to believe we are self-sufficient. Open us to your spirit that we might serve all people without regard to outcome, devoting ourselves to your honor alone. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of Confession May be Made in Silence

Declaration of Forgiveness

God rejoices when we repent and return, offering us finest wheat and honey from the rock to sustain us in new life. Rejoice! For you have been reconciled to God and to one another. With joy, seek the honor of God's service and live in mutual love and hospitality. Amen.

Thanks be to God!

† Sharing Signs of the Peace, Love, and Joy

Clergy: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: ***And also with you.***

Prayer for Illumination

God, you said, "O that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!" Open us to the work of your Spirit, that we may hear and faithfully respond to your holy Word. ***Amen.***

Psalms 81:1-10 Psalter, page 803

Jane Waters, First United Methodist

Epistle Lesson Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Laura Davis, Trinity

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

† Gospel Lesson Luke 14: 1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Reader: The Word of God for the People of God:

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

Children’s Time Message and Blessing
of Backpacks, Students, and Teachers

The Rev. Clark DeSarro-Raynal

Sermon

The Rev. Natalie Chamberlain
The Rev. Tina Melusky

Prayers of Intercession

Melissa Sale, St. Andrew’s
Kathryn Dabbs, Hilton Presbyterian

Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of one another and for the way you have called us together to be your people. We rejoice in the diversity and unity of this gathering. We pray for your whole Church, in heaven and on earth. Together, may we continually offer to you our sacrifice of praise: lips and lives that confess your name.

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

We offer our prayers for the needs of the world. May peace pervade in all places of conflict and violence; may love extinguish the fires of hatred and racism, despair and mental illness. Help us

to remember that when we offer hospitality to others—even and especially those who seem most different from us—we may be entertaining angels. You are our helper; we will not be afraid.

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

We pray for the Hilton community, for all who live and work and play and pray in this neighborhood. Remembering that such sacrifices are pleasing to you, may we never neglect to do good and to share what we have with our neighbors, nearby and far away.

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

We pray for the students who received the school supplies we collected together and for the LINK and THRIVE clients who will benefit from our offering this morning. In Jesus' name and for Jesus' sake, help us always to seek and serve those who cannot repay us.

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

We offer our prayers for all who suffer from sickness of mind, body, or spirit and for those who care for them.

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

Trusting in your promise of the resurrection of the righteous—and in the gracious gift of that righteousness through your Son Jesus Christ—we pray for those who have died, who now worship in Jesus' nearer presence.

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

Almighty God, you call us to follow you with faithfulness, even when it challenges our relationships and the values of our culture. Help us to release our fears, nurture us in your ways, and sustain us as we seek your peace. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to the Offering

*Honoring Jesus' command to love our neighbors, we will distribute today's offering evenly between LINK and THRIVE, local agencies that provide help to "the least of these."
Please give generously.*

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Be Thou My Vision
Lois Reese, flute; Doris Slagle, piano

Slane/arr. Joel Raney
Hilton Presbyterian

Hymn of Preparation

In remembrance of me

Hymn 2254

† The Great Thanksgiving

Clergy: The Lord be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Clergy: Lift up your hearts.

All: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Clergy: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Almighty and eternal Father, we indeed offer you praise and thanks for your presence in the world that you love. In every age you call your people to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you, their God.

When conflict and strife arise, you turn our minds to consider the ways of peace. Your Spirit converts our hearts, calming troubled consciences, reconciling the alienated, enabling conversation among adversaries, and turning the swords of the nations into plowshares. Your Spirit is at work when understanding overcomes discord, when compassion extinguishes the flames of hatred, and when forgiveness silences cries for vengeance.

And so we thank you and praise you with the faithful people of every time and place, joining with the choirs of heaven and with the whole creation in singing to your glory:

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you through your Son, Jesus Christ, who is the way that leads to peace. He is the true Word that brings salvation and the source of eternal life. He is the hand stretched out to sinners, the one who became a servant that we might learn to seek after heavenly things and so find our way to one another. Therefore we celebrate the reconciliation that Christ has gained for us.

When he was at supper on the night before he died for us, he took bread and gave you thanks and praise. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

At the end of the meal he took the cup. Again he offered you praise, gave the cup to his disciples, and said: Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new and everlasting covenant which is shed for you and for all people. Do this, as often as you drink it, for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Lord our God, your Son has entrusted this pledge of love to us, and so we celebrate the memory of his death and resurrection. Accept us together with your Son. Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts, and fill us with that same Spirit as we share this meal, so that all which divides us may be healed. Inspire us to be your people of reconciliation. Make your church throughout the world to be a sign of unity and an instrument of peace.

Bring quickly that new world where the fullness of your peace will be revealed. Keep us watchful for that day when people of every race, language and way of life will gather to share in the one eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Today's communion consists of bread and grape juice.

*If you do not wish to receive communion,
simply cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing.*

Gluten-free wafers are available.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of grace, we give thanks for your faithfulness to us. We give thanks for your hope in us. We rejoice in the knowledge of your unending grace. You have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

† Closing Hymn *The Church's One Foundation*

Hymn 545

† Benediction

Postlude *Toccato on Aurelia*

Geoffrey Bell, Trinity

Robert A. Hobby

Thank You

Clergy not listed in bulletin:

The Rev. Anne Kirchmier, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Marc Vance, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Lynwood Wells, Hilton Baptist Church

Music

We are grateful to all of our church musicians who came together to add such beauty to our worship:

First Methodist – John Allsbrook

Hilton Presbyterian – Lois Reese and Doris Slagle

St. Andrew's Episcopal – Ginny Chilton and the Adult Choir

Trinity Lutheran – Geoffrey Bell

Many thanks to Pastor Elizabeth Lutz and the people of First United Methodist Church for hosting today's worship and reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service; and to all who helped to make this worship service possible. Special thanks to God, from whom all blessings flow!

Service Participants

Communion Assistant: Gina Stump, Hilton Christian

Ushers: Shelby Knoble, Lawrence Leslie, Bill Waters, First Methodist

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