

October 26, 2025

~ The Reverend Philip C. Spohn ~

10:00am

*This morning's Altar Flowers are presented in Celebration of
Donna & David Shankweiler ~ 23rd Wedding Anniversary ~ October 26, 2002*

Order of Worship

Confirmation/Reformation/Anniversary Sunday

Prelude

Steve Wysocki

No matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey, **you are welcome here!**

Welcome & Announcements

We are gathered and ready and aware of God's presence.

Chime~

Silence~

Prayer~

Brennan Fox

Lord, we have many hopes and dreams as youth of our church. We stand today not as buckets to be filled, but as fires that need fuel. May love and grace be the main ingredients in this church. We do not know what the future holds, but we pray that together, with adults, we can do our part to help your kingdom come here, now, and for all people. Together we are the solution for the ills of this world. May the grace and love of Jesus inspire us all to do our share.

Opening Songs: *Open the Eyes of My Heart ~ Ancient of Days*

Time for All Ages

Josh Gulotta

First Reading: Sirach 35:12-17

Audrey Frederick

¹² Give to the Most High as he has given to you,
and as generously as you can afford.

¹³ For the Lord is the one who repays,
and he will repay you sevenfold.

¹⁴ Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it;
¹⁵ and do not rely on a dishonest sacrifice;

for the Lord is the judge,
and with him there is no partiality.

¹⁶ He will not show partiality to the poor;
but he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged.

¹⁷ He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan,
or the widow when she pours out her complaint.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 65

Nick Werkheiser

¹ You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

² **To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**

³ Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴ **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

⁶ **You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.**

⁷ You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸ **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is
full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with
grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

Gospel Acclamation: *Tell the World*

Tell the world the message. Take it everywhere, to every tribe and nation we are called to share...

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:9-14

Hunter Hill

⁹ [Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Help us God, as we seek to interpret what this means for our lives.

Message

Reception of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory: *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu- alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu- alleluia.

We do not live by bread alone, but by ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu- alleluia.

Offering Response: *Thy Word*

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path...

When I feel afraid, and I've lost my way
Still you're right there beside me

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near
Please be near me to the end

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path...

Service of Affirmation of Baptism

These persons have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make public affirmation of their baptism: Brennan Fox, Audrey Frederick, Hunter Hill, Kaleb Hill, Daniel Reading, and Nick Werkheiser.

We rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world.

(The confirmands come forward.)

Let us pray. Lord of life, we praise you for the faith and love of Brennan, Audrey, Hunter, Kaleb, Daniel, and Nick. Today they accept for themselves the grace you offered. Today they make a commitment. Strengthen them to fulfill the vows they make this day in all their future decisions. Help them discover their true calling through the gifts you have given them. Show them the wonders of your Spirit at work, so that their faith will keep getting richer and deeper. Keep them ever in your care for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

Do you renounce evil and all the forces that defy God? **I do.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? **I do.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? **I do.**

You have been taught the ways of God's grace, a love that is unconditional, not earned, and only received with a humble heart. Will you strive to model God's grace to others, to friends and enemies, to relatives and strangers? **I will.**

You have been taught that faith is not something to be memorized, but a trust and assurance of Christ's Spirit being within you. Will you trust in the presence of the Holy Spirit in all things? **I will.**

Jesus Christ has taught us the ways of God, to turn the other cheek, to forgive seven times seventy, to go the second mile, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Will you seek to follow the teachings of Jesus? **I will.**

God has made you in God's image. Will you seek to see God in others? **I will.**

The journey of faith is lifelong. This is not the ending but a new beginning in which you take responsibility for your spiritual lives. Be careful of what you feed your mind; learn from your experiences; live with joy and enthusiasm, knowing you can never escape God's grip of grace. We pray this day as you make these vows that your journey is long, full of love, purpose, peace and hope.

(The confirmands address each other.)

We are God's People.

Help us, O God, to fulfill your intentions for us as people who are called to love and serve our neighbors.

We are a Household of God.

Bind us together as a family who recognize Jesus as our head and who welcome others to join with us.

We are a New Creation.

You have renewed us with a vision of hope for peace and justice, and you have empowered us by your Spirit to be your witnesses in our community and throughout the world.

We are a Community of Disciples.

O God, continue to call us to serve you and equip us to live as faithful followers of Jesus.

We are the Salt of the Earth.

May we be so enriched by the presence of your Spirit in our lives that we bring a special flavor of life and love to all whom we meet and with whom we live.

We are the Light of the World.

Bless us, O God, with the desire and the courage to stand up, to speak out, and to show forth your truth and your love so that others may know and honor you.

We are Branches of a Vine.

God, keep Jesus as the center of our lives and may we receive wisdom and strength through our connection to him.

We are the Body of Christ.

Thank you God, for the wonderful gift of yourself to us, for joining us into one body for endowing each one of us with special gifts that are to be used in your service.

(Pastor Phil addresses the confirmands.)

You have made public profession of your growing faith. Do you intend to continue in the relationship God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to proclaim the love of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

(The families of the confirmands come forward. The confirmands are asked to kneel.)

Let us pray. Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit, you have made Brennan, Audrey, Hunter, Kaleb, Daniel, and Nick your own. You are a forgiving and loving God, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the love of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

(The Laying On of Hands.)

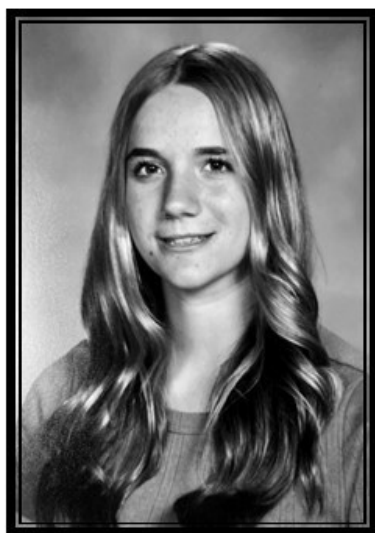
Gracious God, stir up in Brennan, Audrey, Hunter, Kaleb, Daniel, and Nick the gift of your Holy Spirit, confirm his faith, guide his life, empower him in serving, give him patience in suffering, and bring him to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Congregation

We welcome you to a journey that will take your whole life. This isn't the end. It's the continuation of your life with God. What God will make of you, we know not. Where God will take you, surprise you, we cannot say. This we do know, and this we say – God is with you.

(The families return to their seats in the congregation.)

Presentation of Confirmation Certificates



Audrey Frederick



Hunter Hill • Kaleb Hill

Daniel Reading • Brennan Fox • Nick Werkheiser

Duet: *Blessings*
Caitlyn McNeish/Kelly Brightbill

Laura Story

Prayers of the Church

Kaleb Hill & Daniel Reading

After each petition: It is God's work, **but our hands that help to accomplish it.**

George Suarez, Jack Sitka, John Conover, Kurt Rank, Meghan, Michel Daage,
Kris Richard, Bill Bergstresser, Gary Milla, Tammy Harding, John Snyder,
Erna Branco, Steven Portnoy, Leona, Mark Rambo, Bill Tone, Keith Schaedel,
Gary Brandt, Tiffany Weddle, Kyle

Finally, and together: **We offer our prayers, O God,
trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy,
in the name of Jesus, whom we love and follow.
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.**

Closing Song: *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

Benediction: *May the Lord, Mighty God* EDELWEISS

May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.
Grant you peace, inner peace, faith for every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and receive His grace and His love forever.
May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Take home your personal copy of our Monthly *DaySpring* Newsletter
and Volunteer Brochure, and ***Get Connected!***

