

# 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 12, 2021

## Virtual Bulletin with Holy Communion, Feast & Celebration

Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Zachary W. Johnson, Pastor

Donna Menzies, Assistant to the Pastor, Visitation & Spiritual Care

Douglas Shabe, Director of Music

Grace Lee, Organist

Michelle Tune, Soprano

Anita Mork, Assistant Minister

Irene Amon, Lector

### Order of the Liturgy

Prelude

*"Nearer, My God, to Thee"*

arr. by Richard Elliott

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our comforter:

**like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in ✚ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**Amen.**



Hill Ave Grace  
Lutheran Church



Centennial Celebration 1919-2019

## OPENING HYMN

## Lift High the Cross

ELW 660

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till  
all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956  
 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947  
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## 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

*Assistant:* In peace, in peace,

**Refrain**

*Assistant:* *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have  
mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

*to Verses*

*Assistant:* For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)

*Assistant:* For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)

*Assistant:*

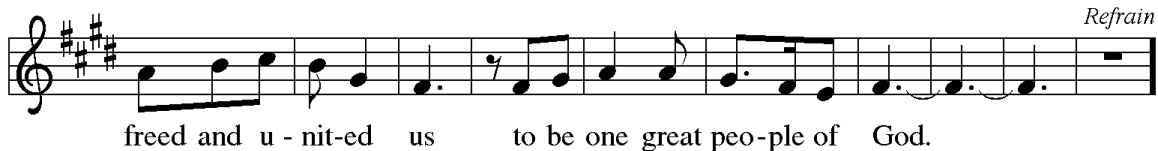
Help, save and de - fend us, O  
God. A - men.

*Congregation:*

HYMN OF  
PRAISE

*Refrain*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion  
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;  
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—  
wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me;  
 therefore I have not been disgraced;  
 therefore I have set my face like flint,  
 and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.  
 Who will contend with me?  
 Let us stand up together.  
 Who are my adversaries?  
 Let them confront me.  
<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
 who will declare me guilty?

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

**PSALM - Psalm 116:1-9** *The congregation responds with the bold verses.*

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice, and listened to my | supplication,  
<sup>2</sup>**for the LORD has given | ear to me**  
**whenev- | er I called.**  
<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me;  
 I came to | grief and sorrow.  
<sup>4</sup>**Then I called upon the name | of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray you, | save my life.”**  
<sup>5</sup>Gracious is the | LORD and righteous; our God is full | of compassion.  
<sup>6</sup>**The LORD watches o- | ver the innocent; I was brought low, | and God saved me.**  
<sup>7</sup>Turn again to your rest, | O my soul. for the LORD has dealt | well with you.  
<sup>8</sup>**For you have rescued my | life from death,**  
**my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling;**  
<sup>9</sup>I will walk in the presence | of the LORD  
 in the land | of the living.

**SECOND READING: James 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup>but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless the Lord and Father,

and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Congregation:*

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!

*Optional Repeat*

### **GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38**

<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of our Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

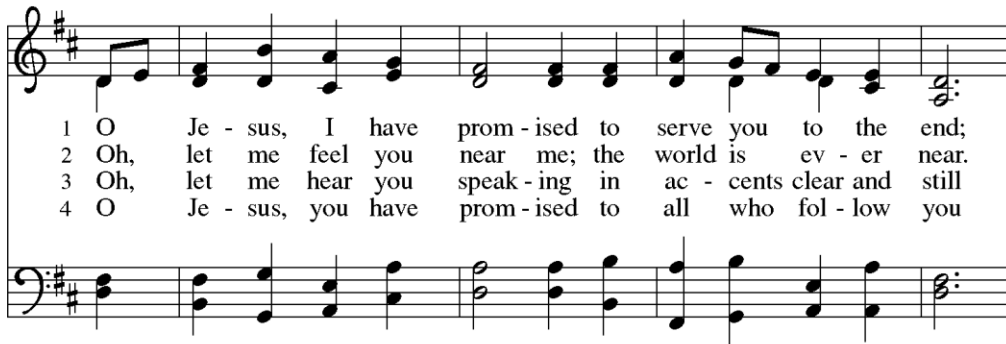
**SERMON**

Pastor Zach Johnson

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## O Jesus, I Have Promised

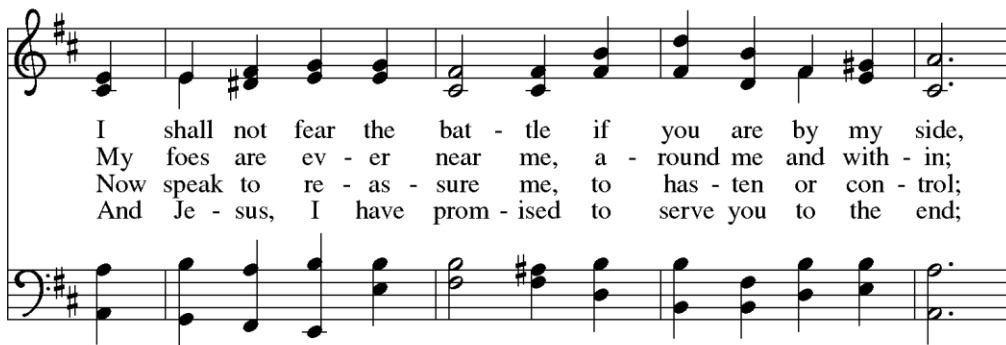
ELW 810




1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;  
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.  
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still  
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.  
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.  
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.  
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,  
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.  
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.  
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.  
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.  
 Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

*Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy." The assembly responds with "Hear our prayer."*

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

*The presiding minister and the assembly share a virtual sign of peace.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### OFFERING PRAYER

*All speak the prayer together.*

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### HOLY COMMUNION

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation is written on four staves in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are as follows:

*Presider:* The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And al-so with you.

*Presider:* Lift up your hearts. *Congregation:* We lift them to the Lord.

*Presider:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Congregation:* It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

### PREFACE

It is our duty and delight...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

*Congregation:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
 might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
 Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

You are indeed holy...Remembering his command to love one another, his life and death, his resurrection and his ascension, we pray for his coming again, even as we cry:

*Presider:* Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

*Congregation:*

A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.  
 A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation...

*Presider:* Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

*Congregation:*

A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.  
 A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our Father even as we pray...

## LAMB OF GOD

Scott Swink, Guitar

*Congregation:*      *Congregation or Assistant:*



Lamb of God,      you take a - way the sin of      the  
 you break the chains of ha - tred      and  
 you are the way of jus - tice      and  
 you are the way of mer - cy      and

*Congregation:*



world:      have mer - cy on us,      mer - cy on us,  
 fear:  
 peace:  
 love.

**Final Stanza**

*Congregation or Assistant:*



mer - cy      on      us.      Lamb of God,      you

*Congregation:*



take a - way the sins of      the world:      grant us peace,



grant us peace,      grant us      peace.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*All are invited into a time of reflection before they receive communion. During this time, you may prepare your hearts to receive the sacrament. Once ready, you may commune yourself and those around you with the bread and wine/grape juice. A representative from each household may say the following—bread: “**The body of Christ given for you.**” Wine/grape juice: “**The blood of Christ shed for you.**”*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep in his grace, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

*Congregation:*

1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:  
2. From of old you loved and sought us:

Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the  
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice

weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for ev - er!  
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your

love, re - mem - b'ring your cov-e-nant of

life with us. 3. Praise to you, O

God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Rais-ing high the weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for

ev - er! Thanks be to you for ev - er!

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*All speak the prayer together.*

**Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, †  
one God, bless you now and forever.

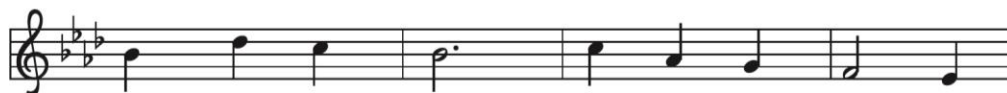
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN****God's Work, Our Hands**

1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987  
Text © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress  
Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude***“So Fades the Lovely Blooming Flower”*

arr. by George Shearing

*Today’s altar flowers are provided by the flower fund, to the Glory of God.*

+++++

<b>Calendar This Week</b>		
Today	10:00 AM	Virtual & In-Person Worship
Tues 9/14/21	7:00 PM	Virtual Council Meeting
Wed 9/15/21	10:00 AM	Bible Study at HAGL
Wed 9/15/21	7:00 PM	Virtual Bible Study
Sat 9/18/21	9:30 AM	Food Shelf Open
Sun 9/19/21	10:00 AM	Virtual & In-Person Worship

**Join us this Sunday at 10 am for our Virtual Worship via Zoom!**

**Check in a few minutes early and hear prelude by Grace! You may also join us on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing your faces and worshipping together!**

**Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

**Topic: Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church Worship**

**Time: Sundays at 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://zoom.us/j/95007590439?pwd=M2NmMUZCZzhMOUY0SG8xeHpzcU5RUT09>**

**Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439**

**Passcode: worship**

**One tap mobile**

**+16699006833,,95007590439#,,,,\*4584517# US (San Jose)**

**+13462487799,,95007590439#,,,,\*4584517# US (Houston)**

**Dial by your location**

**+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)**

**+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)**

**+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)**

**+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**

**+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)**

**+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)**

**Meeting ID: 950 0759 0439**

**Passcode: 4584517**

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***Announcements from Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>:***

**September 12<sup>th</sup>** is the installation of our new bishop, Rev Brenda Bos. We encourage you to attend. There are several satellite sites being setup around the area or you can attend virtually via Zoom. For more information go to the synod website, [www.socalsynod.org](http://www.socalsynod.org)

Starting **Wednesday Sept 15<sup>th</sup>** we will have a **weekly Bible study group**, using the upcoming lectionary texts and diving in a little deeper to understand the background of the texts, what was happening at that time and the context. Please join us for a session! You have 2 options to participate:

- Wednesday mornings at 10 am, in person here at HAGL, either in Pastor's office or the fireside room, depending on the size of the group, keeping in mind mask and gathering protocols.
- Wednesday evenings at 7 pm on Zoom.

Sunday **November 7<sup>th</sup>** we will be having a **Hymn Festival** here at HAGL. 'Psalms for all seasons', featuring various psalm settings with music to those psalms composed by our very own Paul Heatley. This event will be open to the community. We will be inviting neighboring churches to participate. Hopefully we will have a community choir to sing a few anthems for this hymn festival. If you are of the artistic variety, we are calling for art works of your favorite psalm which will then be on display on Sunday November 7<sup>th</sup> during the hymn festival.

We have a couple of different catastrophes going on in our country right now...the horrible wildfires in Northern CA & around southern CA, and the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. If you would like to donate to **Lutheran Disaster Response** to help the recovery efforts with the wildfires or Hurricane Ida, you can write a check and put it in the offering with a note on the memo line 'Lutheran Disaster Response', or go online to the ELCA website, [www.elca.org/ldr](http://www.elca.org/ldr) and look for the button to make an online donation. Just a reminder that 100% of your donation goes to the disaster response, no administrative fees are deducted. We thank you for your willingness to help as we rebuild from these disasters.

Starting **Friday September 10<sup>th</sup>** Pastor Zach will be having **office hours every Friday from 9 am to 1:30 pm**. He is always available via phone call, email, Zoom, and now on Fridays in person. Come and stop by the office any Friday if you'd like to meet with him in person. Per Pastor Zach "I am your pastor and want to be here if you need to talk, if you have a spiritual crisis, if you read something in your Bible that you want to discuss, if you are having a theological argument that you want to make with me, or just want to chat, please don't hesitate to reach out. I would love to hear from you, and I will also be reaching out to you!"



As we have resumed Sunday services in the sanctuary, we ask that you follow these guidelines to ensure safety for everyone.

1. We ask that everyone wear a mask while in the sanctuary, including during worshipping and singing.
2. We will enter the church through the glass doors on Hill Avenue.
3. Pews will be marked off to allow for distancing.
4. There will be a 1-way flow in the church: we enter through the center doors of the narthex and exit the church down the side aisles. If you need to leave during the service, exit down the side aisles and return down the center aisle.
5. Upon entering the narthex, you will receive hand sanitizer and a smile from the volunteer at the door.
6. You may leave your offering in the plate inside the narthex.
7. Pick up a communion set at the table and then proceed into the sanctuary. There will be 3 options for communion: bread and wine, bread and juice, and gluten-free bread and wine. Only take one set for yourself. Wait for communion instructions before opening the packet.
8. Please bring a copy of the bulletin with you to church. You may also use your phone or tablet.

If you have any questions, please see one of our happy volunteers on the front patio, in the narthex, or in the sanctuary. As we transition from virtual to in person worship, we appreciate your help in continuing to wear masks for the time being, with the health and safety of all in mind. As Pastor Zach said, this isn't forever!

The service will still be available on Zoom and Facebook Live for those who prefer to remain at home. If you have questions, please let our church office know. We look forward to actually seeing you at church this Sunday!



## Join Us for God's Work, Our Hands and Rally Day

Hard to believe that autumn is already here! And yet here we are, at the start of September, and that means one thing: it's time for Hill Avenue to celebrate Rally Day and God's Work, Our Hands.

Typically, Rally Day marks the start of a new Sunday School season while God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is a day where we perform acts of service within the community. This year, the Youth and Congregational Life Committee and the Community Ministries Committee are doing something a little different: we're combining these into a new event. On **Sunday, September 26th at 1:00 PM**, we'll host a joint event so our congregation can gather and perform works of service together in community and fellowship. What a great way to kick off the year!



That's not the only change 2021 brings. We'll also be partnering with Trinity Lutheran Church here in Pasadena and Christ the Shepard Church in Altadena. This way, we can pool our resources to ensure we have more workers and more hands collaborating to accomplish even more. Plus, this is a great opportunity to build relationships across congregations within our community.

During this year's GWOH and Rally Day we will be making blankets and packing blessing bags which will be distributed to the unhoused community. It's a great way to show love to our neighbors and a great way to build relationships with one another and with people from other congregations. We will not be serving a meal at this event, as we are being cautious with the Covid Delta variant, and we don't want a situation where we have to remove our masks to eat. **Our GWOH/Rally Day Event will begin at 1 pm**, which will give you about 2 hours after worship service to go out and get some food, maybe change clothes, and return at 1 pm to participate in our God's Work Our Hands service event. We look forward to seeing you then!!

Sincerely,

The Community Ministries and Youth and Congregational Life Committees