



**Whoever
feeds on
this bread
will live
forever.**

John 6:58

13th Sunday after Pentecost
August 18, 2024

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Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

Welcome

Terry Barnes

Confession and Forgiveness

P. In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

P. Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. God, our provider,

C. help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P. Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C. Amen.

The Peace

P. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C. And also with you.




Greeting

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

C. 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.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
For life and for love, for our work and our play,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

A. Let us pray . . . Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

First Reading

Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

¹Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars.

²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table.

³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town,

⁴"You that are simple, turn in here!" To those without sense she says,

⁵"Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34:9-14

Spoken Responsively

⁹Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord,
for those who fear the Lord lack nothing.

**¹⁰The lions are in want and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.**

¹¹Come, children, and listen to me;
I will teach you reverence for the Lord.

**¹²Who among you takes pleasure in life
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?**

¹³Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from lying words.

**¹⁴Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:15—20

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

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.

P. The holy gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

C. **Glory to you, O God.**

John 6:51—58

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

[Jesus said,] ⁵¹"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

P. The gospel of the Lord.
C. Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Rev. John Pearson

Hymn of the Day

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

The Apostles' Creed

L. With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C. 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 again 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

A. Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence

A. Wisdom has built her house. May the church be a house of wisdom for all who enter. May we continue to grow and stretch in ways we never thought possible. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. Wisdom has mixed her wine. May the harvest seasons be plentiful this year. We pray for orchards, vineyards, farms, and all of creation. Protect and conserve the earth. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. Wisdom has employed her laborers. Be with all who seek adequate employment. Guide our economic and governmental leaders to support the people of our world with fair wages and safe working conditions. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. Wisdom has invited her guests. Make your presence known to all who feel lost, abandoned, or hurting at this time. Direct your spirit of care to all who seek healing and comfort. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. Wisdom has set her table. May this congregation be a welcome table to all who seek the refuge of God. Break down walls and barriers that prevent us from offering a seat at this table to anyone who comes. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

Other Prayers

A. Wisdom has shown her path of insight. May we journey on her paths, looking toward a bright future while remembering from where we have come. We give our thanks for those who have gone before us. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

P. We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

C. Amen.

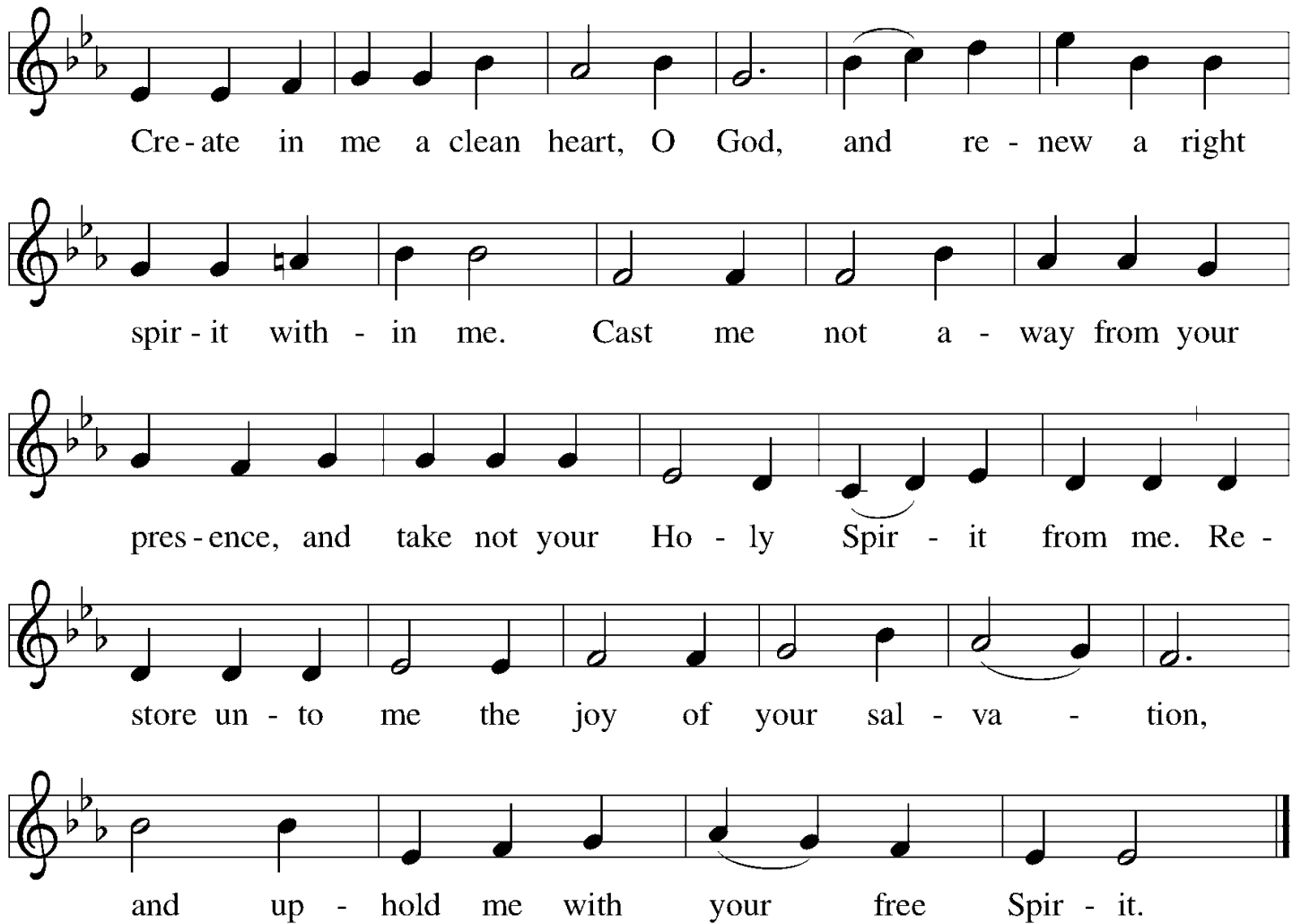
The Offering

Anthem

Taste and See

Popup Choir

Sally Albrecht & Jay Althouse



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

A. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

C. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

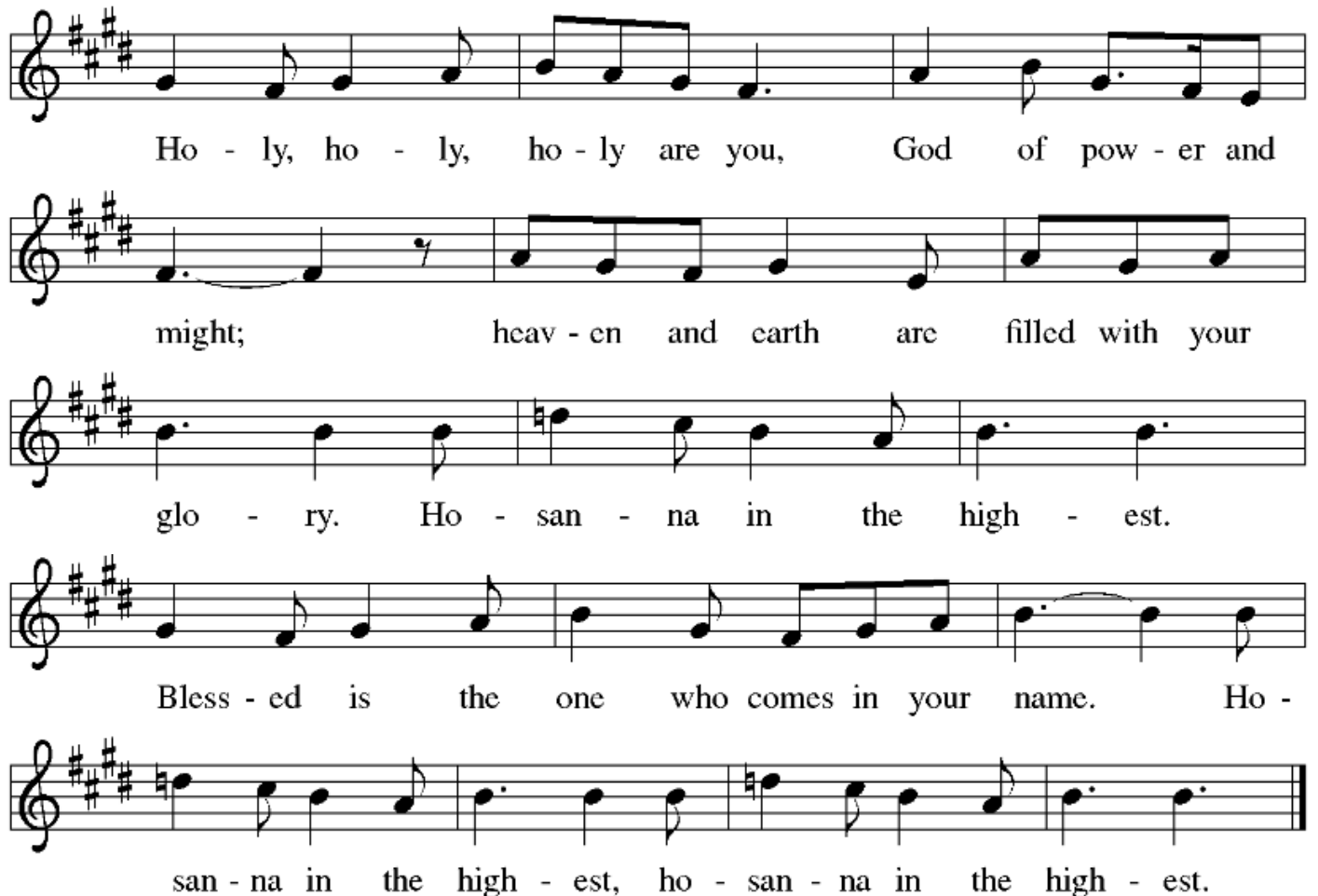
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.



P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The Sanctus



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.

Words of Institution

P. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

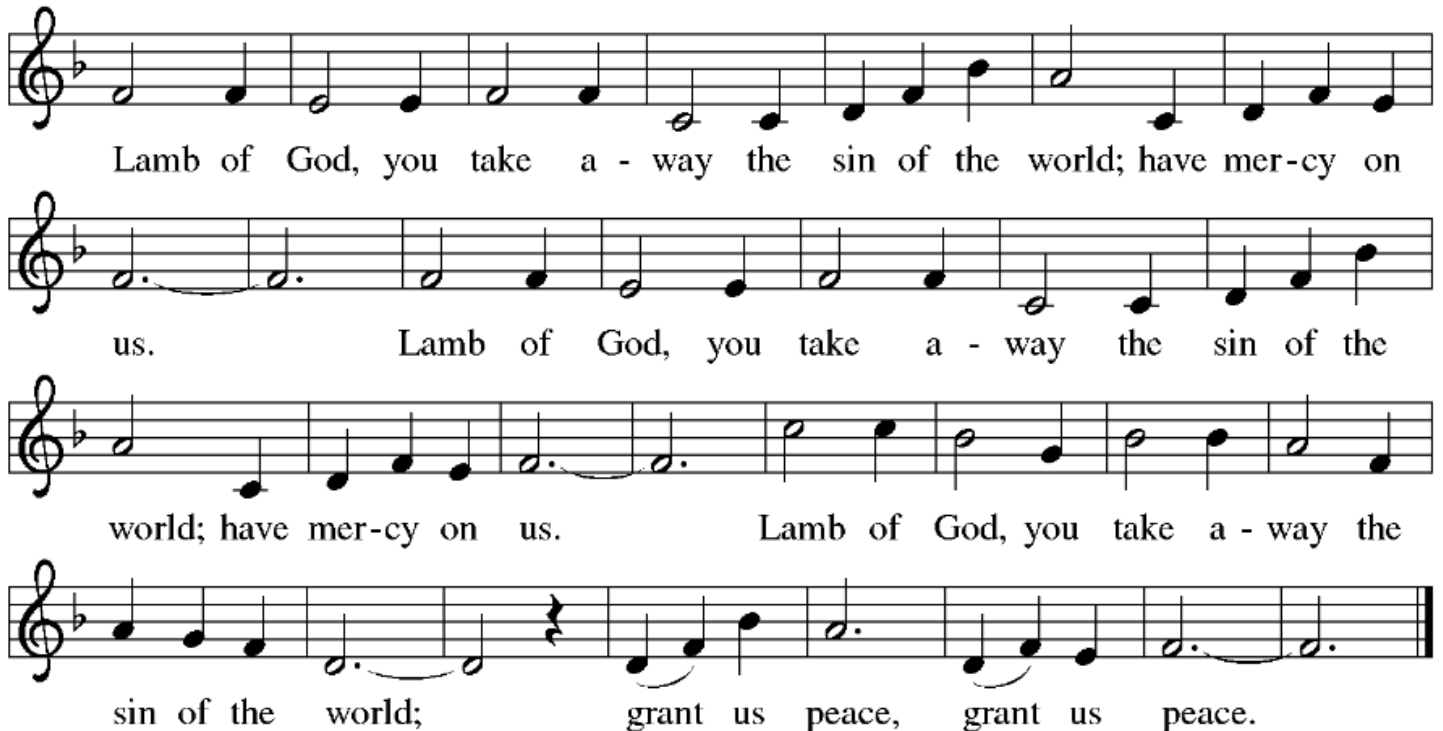
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

P. Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!
All are welcome, no exceptions.

C. Alleluia!

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

*Here Is Bread
You Are Holy*

ELW 483
ELW 525

Post Communion Blessing

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his peace.

C. Amen

Post Communion Prayer

A. Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C. Amen



Benediction

P. The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.

C. Amen.

Sending Hymn

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

ELW 538

Dismissal

A. Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

Gail Hrobuchak

Servers for Sunday, August 18th

Assisting Minister/Reader Carol Wilhelm
Reader Don Wilhelm
Altar Guild Helen Holderman
Greeters/Counters Shannon Thomsen/Enid Weatherwax
Acolyte Antonio Smith

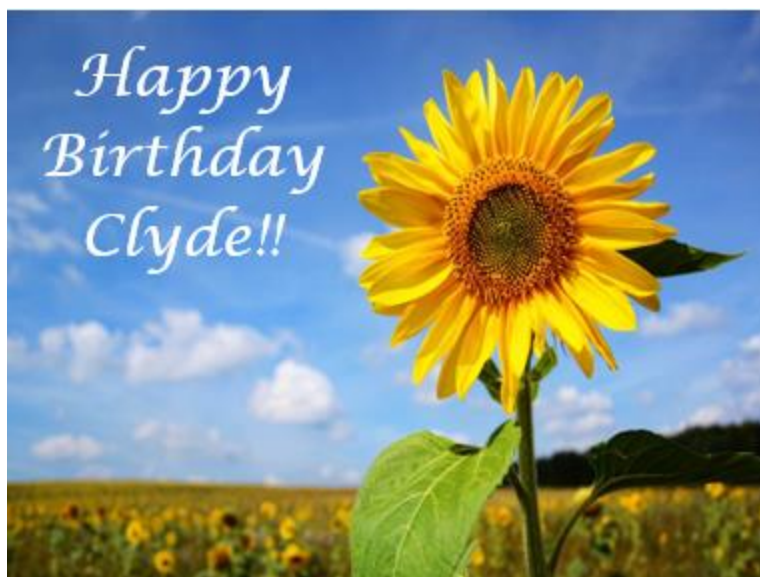
Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway. Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.



Flowers this week are provided by Rena Bogle in celebration of Clyde's Birthday!!



Candles this month are given by Ginny King in memory of Dennis and in honor of their 58th Wedding Anniversary.



Honor a loved one by making a donation for the candles in the sanctuary for the month or the flowers that beautify the church each Sunday. Sign-up sheets are on the board in the hallway.

Look your best! Our member Bob DeVito is working to update our picture directory and replace the outdated photos in the Fellowship Hall. If you have not yet done so, please see Bob after worship this week to have your portrait taken. We hope to complete this project by September 8, so there are only a few Sundays left.

Update on Tech Upgrades: We have received another \$1,350 in donations toward our goal of raising \$12K for technology upgrades in our sanctuary. This brings the total to date to \$9,200, so we are at 76% and in striking distance to our goal! Thank you to all who have donated or pledged so far. If you haven't had a chance yet to support this important ministry, pick up a flier at the Welcome Center in the lobby and return the contribution form this Sunday.

Looking for a few good men and women! In addition to funding, we also need volunteers to run the new audio-visual system once it is up and running. For each worship service, we will need to have three volunteers to run projection, audio, and livestream. No experience necessary, we will train you! Interested? Please see Terry Barnes.

LOOKING AHEAD: Our service project for the "God's Work. Our Hands" weekend in September will be to pack more than 15,300 meals for hungry people across the world by teaming up with our ministry partners at Christ the King in Cary. This family-friendly fun event will take place on Saturday, September 7, 10 am until 12 noon at CTK, 600 Walnut Street, Cary. Here's the link to register: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/CTK>