

## SCRIPTURE

Acts 20:25-36

“And now I know that none of you, among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom, will ever see my face again. Therefore I declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to warn everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing. You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" When he had finished speaking, he knelt down with them all and prayed.

**HOMILY** *Stewardship as Swan Song - What's Telling about Asking*

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION\*** *see insert, 8:45am*

*We welcome you, as your mask remains on, to come forward to share the Bread and Cup. Upon receiving the Meal, simply remove your mask at that moment, then return to your pew with your mask on. Or, if you would like to remain where you are, we welcome you to utilize the Communion packet at your pew.*

**HYMN\*** *Blest Be the Dear Uniting Love, 566  
cantor, 8:45am*

**BENEDICTION** Go now in peace.  
Stand firm in your faith. Be strong. Be brave.  
Let everything you do be done in love.

## POSTLUDE

**OFFERING—** Your generosity and gifts enable Rayne's ministries, thank you! Offerings will be received in the box on the table in the rear of the sanctuary behind the last pew. You can also give online ([raynenola.org/contribute](http://raynenola.org/contribute)), by texting "giverayne" to 73256, or using the QR code.



**WE WELCOME ALL—** All are invited to participate fully in the life of this community of faith and love regardless of race, class, gender, or sexual orientation. We welcome all with open hearts, open minds, and open doors! Those who wish to become members are encouraged to contact: [jay@raynenola.org](mailto:jay@raynenola.org).



*Rayne*  
Memorial United Methodist Church

*for 145 years shining the light of God's love and grace*

3900 Saint Charles Avenue - New Orleans, Louisiana 70115  
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# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 19, 2021



Reinier van Persijn, "The Singing Swan"

Our altar flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by the Faith Works Sunday School Class.

# THE CELEBRATION OF THE GOSPEL

*Welcome to All!*

All are invited to participate in any of our activities,  
and to become a part of this community of faith and love.

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## GATHERING

Rev. Jay Hogewood  
Generosity is a matter of the heart and the work of our hands.  
Generosity is the grateful outpouring of gifts to others, out of love for God.

## PRELUDE

**CALL TO WORSHIP\*** *responsively* Rev. Marissa Teauseau Horvath  
Almighty Giver of All Good Gifts, grow in us the wisdom to know that all we  
have to give is ours only because you have given to us first.  
You have called us in Christ to be gracious and loving - by sharing our  
resources of time, talents and money - for your work on earth.  
May the gifts you have given us be used to show our gratitude.  
Help us this day to share cheerfully and sacrificially.

**HYMN\*** *God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us*, 100  
*cantor, 8:45am*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *together* *The Apostles' Creed*, 881  
The generous grace of Christ our Savior be with you.  
And also with you.

Let us affirm our faith together, by saying:  
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy  
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead and buried. The third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** 11am

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. Amen.

\**The People Standing*

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

11am

Alexandra Rose Pilié  
Born, August 23, 2020  
Parents, Lauren and Philip Pilié  
Siblings, Parker and Iris

## THE RED STEPS

A Special Time for Our Children  
*At this time, children age 3 years old through 2nd grade may  
attend children's church in the education building.*

## MINISTRY MOMENT

Mike Coatney, 8:45am  
Brenda Smith Tolbert, 11am

## OFFERING

*Ushers with offering plates will pass by each pew. Please pass your  
gift to the usher or place in the box on the table in the rear of the sanctuary.*

Randall Bunnell, 8:45am  
*For I am Persuaded*  
Composer: Carlisle Floyd

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels,  
nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature,  
shall be able to separate me from the love of God.  
The Lord Bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you  
and give you peace.

Laurie Phillips, 11am

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*  
Words and Music by Will L Thompson  
arr. William Cutter

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;  
See, on the portals He's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.  
Come home, come home,  
Ye who are weary, come home.  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, O sinner, come home!

O for the wonderful love He has promised, promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon,  
Pardon for you and for me.  
Come home, come home,  
Ye who are weary, come home.  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, O sinner, come home!

## **HYMN**

*God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us, 100*

1. God, whose love is reigning o'er us, source of all, the ending true;  
hear the universal chorus raised in joyful praise to you:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, worship ancient, worship new.
2. Word of God from nature bringing springtime green and autumn  
gold; mountain streams like children singing, ocean waves like  
thunder bold: Alleluia, Alleluia, as creation's tale is told.
3. Holy God of ancient glory, choosing man and woman, too;  
Abr'am's and Sarah's story formed a people bound to you.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, to your covenant keep us true.
4. Covenant, new again in Jesus, Starchild born to set us free;  
sent to heal us, sent to teach us how love's children we might be.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, risen Christ, our Savior be!
5. Lift we then our human voices in the song that faith would bring;  
live we then in human choices lives that, like our music, sing:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, joined in love our praises ring!

## **HYMN**

*Blest Be the Dear Uniting Love, 566*

1. Blest be the dear uniting love that will not let us part;  
our bodies may far off remove, we still are one in heart.
2. Joined in one spirit to our Head, where he appoints we go,  
and still in Jesus' footsteps tread, and do his work below.
3. O may we ever walk in him, and nothing know beside,  
nothing desire, nothing esteem, but Jesus crucified!
4. We all are one who him receive, and each with each agree,  
in him the One, the Truth, we live; blest point of unity!
5. Partakers of the Savior's grace, the same in mind and heart,  
nor joy, nor grief, nor time, nor place, nor life, nor death can part.

## **THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

*All are welcome at the table!*

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### **INVITATION**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent  
of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

### **CONFESSION**

**Our God who seeks the lost and gathers the weary,  
we confess we neglect your loving-care. We tend to go our own way,  
even when that threatens the peace you want to grant us.  
We are sorry and humbly repent. Lead us back to your way.  
Guide our paths that we might serve you  
and walk in your way that leads to life.**

*(silence)*

### **PARDON**

Hear the good news:  
Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd, welcomes sinners,  
seeks the lost and forgives the sin of the world.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we  
praise your name and join their unending hymn:  
**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.**  
And so in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living  
sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**