

**CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Worship Service – August 22 29, 2021\***

Revised Common Lectionary Readings  
 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/Ordinary Time  
 Year B

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43\*  
 Psalm 34:15-22\*  
 Ephesians 6:10-20\*  
 John 6:56-69\*

*\*Due to the cancellation of our worship service on August 22 because of Hurricane Henri, we will be using this same liturgy originally planned for August 22 in our August 29 worship service. Lectionary readings are from August 22.*

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Opening Prayer**

God our strength and our refuge, may our worship boldly witness to the Good News, even as we are transformed by it. As you welcome us, may we become a people who welcomes the stranger. As you are our peace, may we become a peace-making people. As you bind up the brokenhearted, may we become a people seeking to bind the wounds of this world and the of those wounded by this world. As you are steadfastly faithful in your loving kindness, may we be faithful in love and kindness. Amen.

**Call to Worship**

John 6:68-69

“Lord, to whom can we go?

**“You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”**

Let us worship our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**Song**

*The River*  
 Dave Pak, Guitar and Vocals

**Confession\***

Psalm 34:18

*“The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.”*

**O Lord, you are near to the brokenhearted, and you save the crushed in spirit. Be near to us in our brokenness, and love us into wholeness.**

**You are near to those who are hurting, yet we keep our distance. You envision a world where all needs are met, yet we hoard what we have and cling to our power.**

**Be near to us in our brokenness, and love us into wholeness, that we, too, may learn to love as you love. By your mercy, forgive our sins. By your grace, give us bold courage to try again.**

*(personal confession)*

*\*adapted from Call to Worship, vol. 54.1 © 2020 Office of Theology and Worship, PC(USA)*

**Assurance and Passing of the Peace**

Psalm 34:22

*"The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned."*

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God**

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.****Scripture**Luke 1:46-55Ruth 4:1-22**Sermon***Invited to Live the Story***Song***Here I Am Lord*

Dave Pak, Guitar and Vocals

**Affirmation of Faith**Apostles' Creed  
(ecumenical)

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.

**Call for the Offering and Doxology**

John 6:68

*"Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life."*

Let us come to our Lord with all that we are, and all that we have. That having received, we might give; and having given, we might receive.

**Prayer of Dedication**

We give thanks to you, God, for sending your Son, Jesus, to be living bread for the world. Breathe your Spirit on the gifts we bring, that through them your life may feed, strengthen, and bless this world, through Christ, our bread of life. Amen.

**Announcements****Prayers of the People**

Lord, you who have the words of eternal life, hear our words of prayer.

Faithful God, there is no one like you in heaven or on earth. The highest heaven cannot contain you, yet you dwell in our midst and regard our prayers with favor. So we lift our hearts to you, trusting in the power of your Spirit as we pray for your Church, your world, and those in need.

Let your Church stand firm in the strength of your power, overcoming evil and proclaiming the gospel of peace.

Bless us to care for you creation, the sanctuary you have provided to nourish, sustain, and shelter humankind and all living things.

May the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this present darkness yield to your reign of love, peace, justice, righteousness, and goodness for all.

Protect and comfort the weak. Hear the cry of the stranger. Remember the forgotten. Strengthen our faith, deepen our love, empower our witness.

May those we remember now find refuge under your wings:

As we think about all that has happened in our world these past weeks we recognize that we cannot hold it all. But you can. And so we offer it up to you.

We remember those who mourn...

Those who are sick, or in need of healing...

For the people of Haiti...

For the people of Afghanistan...

For those in Tennessee recovering from floods...

For those recovering from Hurricane Henri...

For the continuing COVID pandemic...

For all the uncertainty of this world...

*[personal prayers]*

Finally Lord, as the new school year is upon us, we are grateful for the resilience, innovation and determination our students, teachers, school staff, parents and administrators demonstrated and developed over the past year. We begin this new school year in prayer because we are anxious for our students to resume school in person, yet still be safe from COVID-19.

We pray for a better year; for a safe return to classrooms; for the health of students, teachers and school staff; for school boards and administrators under pressure to make difficult decisions; and for parents exhausted by the uncertainty and constantly changing plans.

Help us, Holy God, to bear with one another in love as we face the new challenges this year will inevitably bring. We pray that our teachers banked enough summer renewal to face any new disruptions, and where it was not, Lord, we pray they would find strength and moments of rest. We ask that the hard lessons students learned since the start of this pandemic will give them the confidence and courage to face whatever lies ahead. With confidence in your ability to do more than we ask or imagine, we pray that faith will deter fear and hope will bring new life.

Bless us, Holy God, in our efforts to protect and care for students so they can focus on their healthy development and their studies; bless their learning; bless their time together with friends and mentors. Lead us all to health and healing.

Lord, in these and in all things, be our refuge. Be our strength, that we may be bold in steadfast faithfulness and bold in loving kindness in these times, wherever we may have the opportunity. May our lives embody our prayers, even as we are bold to pray together the prayer Jesus taught us, saying

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*\* portions adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion and  
A Prayer for the Start of the 2021 School Year, Terri McDowell Ott, Editor, Presbyterian Outlook*

## **Song**

*Love Goes On*  
Steve Pandolfi, Solo

## **Charge and Benediction**

Beloved, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power that you may boldly walk in faithfulness and loving kindness.

And the love of God the Father, the grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you, now and forevermore.

## **Postlude**