

September 18, 2022 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Bold italics indicate the work of the people.*

\* indicates the people shall stand if able

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Arnold Kenseth (adapted)

It is God who sustains us

when we rise in the morning and go off to our work.

*It is God's enormous hand that holds us so we cannot fall,  
God's enormous love that surrounds us and holds us  
like a battalion of guardian angels.*

It is God, and God's hand and God's love  
that rise with us in the morning, and go with us to our work,  
and keep us from falling forever and ever and ever.

*Praise be to God!*

*Amen!*

INVOCATION

Arnold Kenseth (adapted)

*O God, be with us so that we feel you like hands upon us;  
uphold us so that we know you like strength beneath us; go with us  
so that we have you like love within us. Be for us in our goodness  
and against us in our evil. Keep us from all things shallow and  
unholy, and move our wills to seek the deep reality of yourself.  
Protect us from the times and places that destroy and deceive, and  
give us grace to show the justice and mercy to all people that we ask  
for ourselves. Make our prayers fruitful, in Jesus' name. Amen.*

\*HYMN PH #21 "We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing"

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Arnold Kenseth (adapted);

*(Corporate confession means that we pray for the sins of  
all humankind and not just our own.)*

*Gracious God, our sins are many, some we can see and some  
we can't see and some we don't want to see. Each of us has our own  
sins, and we share in all peoples' sins. They all deaden us down.  
O God, we need help to make us whole again. Amen.*

Assurance of Forgiveness.

The Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.*

*As it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be.*

*World without end. Amen. Amen.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES:

Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:1

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS Luke 15

A SERMON

\*HYMN FH #127 "What Wondrous Love is This?"

PRAYERS

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of Intercession

Pastoral Prayer

*O God,*

*leftover summer squash lounge in our gardens  
admiring their own cleverness at having eluded the harvest,  
complimenting each other's deepening shade of yellow,  
smug at how the earth now accommodates their shape and weight,  
and fending off panic as the earth which once nurtured them and  
cradled them,  
now softens them . . .  
seeking their seed.*

*Like us, they resort to eastern philosophy  
to find comfort in the idea of the re-incarnation . . .  
until their reverie is shattered by the thought of returning as a mere  
gourd,  
and then is and resumed in the contemplation of pumpkinhood.*

*We share much with the squash, dear God,  
the smugness,  
the illusory comfort,  
and the panic,*

*our version of the fear of gourditude  
and the fantasy of sublime pumpkinhood.*

*But we are also different because we see our seed becoming fruit  
right before our eyes,  
and we realize that all that our fruit might be  
is not written in the seed.*

*And so, year by year we invented Sunday School,  
and though we know you love and treasure even lowly gourds,  
we pray that you would be with us here and now,  
the ground of our striving to produce pumpkins  
in Jesus name, who taught us to pray.*

; 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

#### THE OFFERING

Invitation to Giving

Offertory Anthem

\*Doxology #514

***In thanks and with gratitude for all that you provide, dear God, and to the service of the world you love so much, we dedicate these gifts and our lives to you in Jesus' name. Amen***

\*HYMN PH #232 "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

\*BENEDICTION