

August 14, 2022 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
*Bold italics indicate the work of the people.*

QUIET TIME  
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
PRELUDE

INVITATION TO WORSHIP Arnold Kenseth (adapted)

God, your mystery is the light beyond our dark.  
*You awaken us to morning, and in the night you gather us to rest.*  
You are unknown yet known, distant but close, beginning yet end.  
*We see your beauty and are amazed;  
we receive your strength and have new hope;*  
We are held in your mercy and are at peace.  
*Now we declare our joy in you.*  
Amen!  
*Amen!*

INVOCATION Arnold Kenseth (adapted)

*O God, we place before you such prayers out of our silence as shake  
the hearts of all people everywhere. We cry peace, when there is no  
peace. We pray for the hungry who are not fed, the naked who are  
not clothed, the prisoners who are not set free. We ask for justice  
where we have refused it. Though these words come hard, we pray  
that our enemies, personal and political, receive overwhelmingly  
your love, your care. Find in our prayers something more than the  
hypocrisies that hem us in. Amen.*

\*HYMN PH #66 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION Arnold Kenseth (adapted);

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

*O God, in your plenteous mercy, receive our confession. We  
have accepted your goodness and given you no thanks; we have  
fought against the disciplines of your love; we have been afraid of  
your presence and hidden from you in a thousand ways; we have run  
from your salvation. Hold us patiently, O God, until in our hearts we  
know that we are yours forever. Amen.*

Assurance of Pardon.

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 READINGS FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES:

Genesis 32: 22-31

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 19: 1-28

A SERMON

\*HYMN PH #93 "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah"

PRAYERS

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of Intercession

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Dear God, when we find ourselves lost in the middle of our lives,  
we find ourselves calling out, "Where are you in the middle of our lives?"  
It's as if . . . if we could find you in the middle of our lives  
we'd be able to find ourselves, in the middle of our lives.  
And we wonder whether it would work the other way.  
We wonder whether, if we could just find ourselves in the middle of our  
lives,  
we'd find you there, too.

There are times when we have found ourselves lost very near home,  
and have never felt more lost.  
Those are the times we're talking about,  
and the old joke occurs to us,  
"Well, we know where we are: right here!"  
but the world has suddenly become strange and it's home that's lost.  
And it's just then we find ourselves calling out,  
"Where are you in the middle of our lives?"

There are also times when we are suddenly strangers to ourselves,

right at home in a world become all too oppressively familiar.  
Those are the times we're praying about,  
and those are the times when *you* have never seemed stranger,  
and we find ourselves calling out,  
"Who are you in the middle of our lives?,"  
and we wonder whether if we could just figure out who you are,  
we would also be able to figure out who we are.  
And we wonder whether it would work the other way.

In the middle of this muddle of our lives, your Jesus appears,  
bearing the double burden in his body of knowing  
just who you are and just who we are,  
because he is you and he is us all at the same time!

And here's the thing we can't imagine:  
we can't imagine the *pain* of it . . .  
the agony of loving us both.

We've been lost for a long time in the middle of our lives  
but have not called out your name seriously,  
for fear that, if you should answer and show us who and where you are  
and who and where we are,  
we would have to suffer some great thing, bear some great burden.

We didn't know that it was love we would suffer  
or that you would suffer, too, for love.

Help us, we pray, to bear this burden,  
and, borne by your love, become bearers of your love,  
in Jesus name . . .

***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.***

Response

#### THE OFFERING

Invitation to Giving  
Offertory Anthem

\*Doxology #514

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***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 #228 "Love Divine"

\*BENEDICTION