

WE WILL NEVER  
FORGET!

Remembering September 11, 2001



**SEPTEMBER 12, 2021  
9/11 REMBRANCE SERVICE  
AND  
HONORING OUR LOCAL HEROS**

*South Avenue and Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Churches*

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**Welcome Visitors:** We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. If you have questions concerning the service, please feel free to ask an usher or a person sitting near you. If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining us. **Large Print Bulletins:** We have bulletins in **LARGE** print available. Please ask an usher for one. May God bless your experience in worship with us today. We are here to serve, so please let us know how we might better serve you.

## Order of Worship

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### CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

#### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

“Adagio”

Samuel Barber

*(As the prelude begins, you are invited to center yourself for worship)*

#### GATHERING WORDS:

Pastor: Throughout scripture, God urges us to remember.

**People: We come to remember the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11.**

Pastor: We come to remember the sacrifices made.

**People: Remembrance gives purpose to our past.**

Pastor: Remembrance reignites hope.

**People: We remember that God is faithful even in our darkest hours.**

Pastor: We come to rekindle the flame of hope and celebrate the faithfulness of God.

#### HYMN

“God, We’ve Known Such Grief and Anger”

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

*(Sung to the of “There’s a Witness in God’s Mercy, No. 121)*

*God, we’ve known such grief and anger as we’ve heard your people cry.  
We have asked you, “How much longer?” We have sadly wondered, “Why?”  
In this world of so much suffering, may we hear your word anew:  
“I will never leave you orphaned; I will not abandon you.”  
By your grace comes resurrection; by your love, you cast out fear.  
You give strength and sure direction. as we seek to serve you here.  
You give comfort to the grieving, and you bless the ones who mourn.  
May we trust in you, believing out of chaos, hope is born.  
Hope is ours for, God, you love us! You have claimed us by your grace.  
And through Jesus, you have called us to bring hope to every place.  
In each rescue worker’s caring, in each faithful volunteer,  
In each Christian’s love and sharing, God, we glimpse your kingdom here.*

#### CHIMES AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

### CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

#### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“O God, Our Words Cannot Express”

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

*(Sung to the tune of “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”, No. 117)*

*Oh God, our words cannot express the pain we feel this day.  
Enraged, uncertain, we confess our need to bow and pray.  
We grieve for all who lost their lives...and for each injured one.  
We pray for children, husbands, wives whose grief has just begun.  
O Lord, we’re called to offer prayer for all our leaders, too.  
May they, amid such great despair, be wise in all they do.  
We trust your mercy and your grace; in you we will not fear!  
May peace and justice now embrace! Be with your people here!*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Anniversaries are important to us.

**People: Often they are times for celebration.**

Pastor: Sometimes they are times for thoughtful commitment.

**People: But for many of us, they are also times when memory of some trauma, consciously or unconsciously, moves us in ways we do not understand.**

Pastor: May this year's remembrance be for us a continuation of true healing.

**People: May this year's remembrance call us close to Christ, in whom alone is our hope.**

Pastor: We come in faith to worship the living Christ who is our hope, our strength, our refuge.

## OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God, our Father, from whom we come, and to whom our spirits return: You have been our dwelling place in all generations. You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Grant us your blessing in this hour, and enable us so to put our trust in you that our spirits may grow calm and our hearts be comforted. Lift our eyes beyond the shadows of earth, and help us to see the light of eternity. So may we find grace and strength for this and every time of need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## INTROIT

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

No. 140, v. 1

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.*

### REFRAIN

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

## ANTHEM

"At a Time Like This"

Thomas LeFerre

## CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESION AND FORGIVENESS

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### GENERAL CONFESSION

**God, our hope and refuge, we confess that anger and hatred have held on to us. Healing continues, but loss is still real. We are not in control. We don't like being vulnerable. We still want security or the illusion of it. We still want our enemies to be annihilated and for our lives to return to safety and Shalom. Forgive us and heal us. Raise us to new life. Strengthen us in the way of compassion and justice. Fix our faith on you so we know that nothing can separate us from you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### SILENT CONFESSION

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love towards us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**All: Glory to God, Amen!**

## HYMN OF ASSURANCE

"It Is Well With My Soul"

No. 377, v. 3

**My sin, o, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross,  
And I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul!  
It is well, it is well, with my soul, with my soul,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

## REMEMBERING

### LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

Pastor: We come this day to remember.

**People: Remembrance begins with deep personal identification.**

Pastor: It begins with remembering the affliction of our brothers and sisters and making their pain as our own.

**People: Remembrance is a sacred moment when we raise up and hold to the light of the eternal moment.**

Pastor: When we remember the stockbrokers, office workers, maintenance workers, bystanders, window-washers and all the others who worked together so valiantly to help each other, we can say together,

**People: We remember great courage.**

Pastor: When we recall the firefighters who rushed upstairs, as most everyone else was racing out, we can say together,

**People: We remember selfless service.**

Pastor: When we recall the police officers who stood to protect and defend the people and performed their duties, until the towers came crashing down on top of them, we can say together,

**People: We remember selfless sacrifice for the safety of others.**

Pastor: When we recall those citizens who rushed to help, did all they could to help, we can say together,

**People: We remember and give thanks for dutiful commitment to those in distress.**

Pastor: When we recall the people who stood in line at the nation's blood banks to make living donations from their very bodies, we can say together,

**People: We give thanks for those who live on to pass on life and love.**

Pastor: When we remember the millions of workers, women and men, old and young, single and married, American-born and those born in countries around the world, who did not escape the buildings, we can say together,

**People: We will remember the loss of human life.**

Pastor: This is a day of solemn remembrance – of tragedy and sacrifice, of atrocity and heroism, of cruelty and kindness. On this day, we remember the 2,977 souls who perished 20 years ago.

### HYMN

“O God, Our Hearts Were Shattered”

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

(Sung to the tune “Lead On, O King Eternal”, No. 580)

*(A white rose will be presented in memory of all those who perished on September 11, 2001.)*

*O God, our hearts were shattered on that horrendous day;  
We heard the news and gathered to grieve and then to pray.  
We cried to you and wondered, “Where did the violence start?”  
The world as we had known it had just been torn apart.  
We heard of those who perished---of heroes’ sacrifice.  
We paused again to cherish the gifts of love and life.  
We worried for the future; we hugged our loved ones then.  
We cried, “Can peace be found here? We can’t let terrorists win!”  
Some sought to answer terror the only way they knew---  
With anger toward the stranger and calls for vengeance, too.  
Yet this is not your answer, nor what you would create.  
May we live toward a future where love will conquer hate.  
God, give us faith and wisdom to be your healing hands;  
Give open minds that listen to truth from all your lands.  
Give strength to work for justice; grant love that casts out fear.  
Then peace and not destruction will be the victor here.*

### A MOMENT OF SILENCE

# Celebration of Heroes



## HONORING OUR LOCAL HEROES

### LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O Lord, our God, you call each of us to be your servants.

**People: We thank you, God, for these servants.**

Pastor: We give thanks for those who willingly face danger to preserve our safety and welfare.

**People: We thank you, God, for these servants.**

Pastor: We give thanks for those who bind up our wounds and minister to us in our times of distress.

**People: We thank you, God, for these servants.**

Pastor: We give thanks for those who workdays and nights, holidays and weekends, that we might be safe and protected.

**People: We thank you, God, for these servants.**

Pastor: We give thanks for those who serve our needs, regardless of weather or daunting conditions.

**People: We thank you, God, for these servants.**

Pastor: We give thanks for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives in service, and for those who continue to suffer from injury in the line of duty.

**People: We thank you, God, for these servants.**

Pastor: We give thanks for the families of our local heroes who have also sacrificed much, as they wait patiently for their loved ones who respond to our needs.

**People: We thank you, God, for these servants.**

### HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord"

*Here I am, Lord.*

*Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard you calling in the night.*

*I will go, Lord, if you lead me.*

*I will hold your people in my heart.*

No. 593 (Refrain only)

(All of our local heroes are invited to stand at this time for a blessing)

PRAYER OF BLESSING

(Prayer for Social Justice, Book of Common Prayer)

**O Lord, our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be ministered unto but to minister. Bless, we beseech thee, all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience and courage, they may minister in his name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, the same thy Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN

“Here I Am, Lord”

No. 593 (Refrain only)

**Here I am, Lord.**

**Is it I, Lord?**

***I have heard you calling in the night.***

***I will go, Lord, if you lead me.***

***I will hold your people in my heart.***

\*HONORING THOSE WHO DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

(The bells will toll seven times. The number seven in the scriptures denotes wholeness, completion, perfection.)

\*A MOMENT OF SILENCE

HYMN

“Amazing Grace”

No. 378, v. 1

***Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.***

## CELEBRATION THROUGH THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pastor: O Lord, open our eyes, our ears, our minds, and our hearts.

People: **that we might behold wondrous things out of your word.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

“Thy Word”

No. 601 (Refrain only)

***“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path”***

FIRST LESSON

Romans 8:18, 31-39

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

No. 186

***“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia”***

\*GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Lord be with you,

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of St. John

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

\*THE GOSPEL IS READ

John 14: 18-20, 25-27

\*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

\*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

## CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAIMING

SERMON

“Where Is God?”

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

## CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

"Lord, Thou Hast Searched Me"

C. Callahan

\* DOXOLOGY

No. 95

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Pastor:** We long for the time when the meek shall inherit the earth and all who hunger and thirst after justice shall be satisfied, and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil, now is always the time when more good can be done and we can make a difference.

**People:** **May it be so, through the offering of these gifts and the offering of our lives. Amen.**

## CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

\*BENEDICTION

**Pastor:** We give thanks for the shining spirit of courage and self-giving love that emerged from the darkness of 9-11. With such models of heroism before us;

**People:** **may we make a renewed commitment to work for mercy and kindness for all people; increasing and extending our compassion for all those everywhere who are the victims of misfortune, or violence, or injustice.**

**Pastor:** May God help us to identify for ourselves those sources of life and light that cannot be shaken by any terror or any terrorist.

**People:** **May we find in you, Lord, an unshakable place to stand, and the courage to build and live lives of courage and conviction.**

**Pastor:** May God keep our hearts tender and our minds alert to the human need around us.

**People:** **May we each seek out and find the words of love that we can do. Through Christ. Amen.**

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\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Danish Amen"

No. 898

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

No. 519, vs. 1 & 3

*Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty; let our rejoicing rise high as  
the listening skies,  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea;  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us mark on till victory is won.*

*God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met  
thee;  
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget  
thee;  
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.*

POSTLUDE

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

C. Callahan

**'WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD'**