

HYMN

*Jesus Loves Me!*

#188

1 Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago, taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me." (Refrain)

*Responding to God's Word*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Sending of God's Word*

CLOSING HYMN

*Go, My Children, With my Blessing*

#547

1 "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own. In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure. Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure. Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."

3 "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me. Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you. Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Welcome Visitors!** We are glad you are worshipping with us. Please take a moment and add your name and contact information at our Visitor Sign-in located on the table by the doors in the Narthex (the doors to the Coburg Parking Lot).

**Leading in worship today:**

The Revs Marta and David Ukropina, Co-pastors  
Ursula Damgaard, Music Director



**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
Eugene, Oregon  
**September 12, 2021**

*Gathering Around God's Word*

GATHERING MUSIC

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, the one who welcomes us all

**is here in word and bread and wine.**

Little children, young and old, all God's children:

**welcome to the place of hope and joy.**

Children of God, Jesus calls us all into the circle of his arms. Come.

**Thanks be to God! Let us join together to worship.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

#39

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!

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

(Refrain)

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Refrain)

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us use our voices to declare those things we have said and done that have separated us from God, and from each other, that we may experience God's mercy and receive God's forgiveness.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of all, we know you have called us to welcome the child, to welcome all people in your name. But, in truth we have turned them away. We have been a selfish people and have instead focused on satisfying our own wants and desires. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to remember that everyone is your beloved child and help us to treat them as such. May we follow Christ and seek to serve others instead of serving ourselves. We pray all this in Christ's name, Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Laying aside our sin, we live in the light of Christ. Gathered in Christ's name, surely he is among us, full of grace and truth helping us to welcome each other. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and lifted up to new life. Thanks be to God.

*The Word*

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Old Testament Reading: Psalm 8*

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

*New Testament Reading: Mark 7:24-37*

Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

ANTHEM

*You Are My Hiding Place*

soloist: Darlene Valtinson

SERMON

*"Welcoming"*

Rev. Marta Ukropina

#### BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

When it's the night before going to school, and I'm picking out my clothes and making sure I have all my homework done...

**God is with you.**

When I'm waking up and eating a healthy breakfast to start the day or rushing because I overslept...

**God is with you.**

When I'm getting on the school bus, being driven to school, biking or walking...

**God is with you.**

When I am worrying about wearing my mask and remembering to follow all the rules...

**God is with you.**

When I am learning in my classroom and meeting new friends...

**God is with you.**

When I'm playing with my friends at recess or hanging out with my friends between classes ...

**God is with you.**

When I'm eating my lunch or taking a test...

**God is with you.**

When I'm telling my family about my day at school...

**God is with you.**

When I'm praying at night and thanking God for my family, my friends, my school and my teachers...

**God is with you.**

When I am at church in worship, Sunday School, Kids Group or Youth Group...

**In all of these things, God is with you. God is welcoming you with love, hope and joy as you journey through another school year.**

Let's pray together:

**Thank you, God, for always being by our side. We know that if we get nervous or afraid, you will be there with us. When we see the tag on our backpack, we will remember that you are always with us, guiding our steps wherever we go and giving us hope and joy. We know that we can talk with you any time – day or night – and for that we are so thankful. We pray this all in your name. Amen.**