



**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 14, 2024 at 10:00 am**

GATHERING IN FAITH

‘Looking back upon your life,’ said Augustine, ‘it’s as if you are gazing into a chicken pen with hundreds of random chicken tracks in the mud. But then, if you look through the eyes of faith, you begin to discern pattern, direction, and beauty that were there all along.’
Accidental Preacher - A Memoir, Will Willimon

Welcome Steve Crocco

Trinity Chimes *In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.*

Call to Worship Tim Spring

Leader: We worship God with song, giving glory to God,

People: singing God’s praise and shouting for joy.

Leader: Let us create a sabbath space

People: and worship the God who gives us life.

Hymn Sing **Congregation Singing**
see Bulletin pages 4-5
Celebrating the 350th Birthday of Isaac Watts

Opening Prayer Steve Crocco

Call to Confession (taken from Isaac Watts’ hymn text at *Hymnal*, No. 78) Ronnie Bailey
*Leader: Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die!
Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I!*

Prayer of Confession
Leader: Praying together-
**Most gracious and loving God, how much more could we ask of You,
how much more could You give us, than You have given us in Jesus Christ?**

People Singing:
**Was it for sins that I have done He suffered on the tree?
Amazing Pity! Grace Unknown! And love beyond degree!**

*Yet we confess that we have not claimed the fullness of Your grace to us.
We place our hope in material things, instead of in Your spiritual blessing.
We neglect to serve You with all our strength.*

**From these and all our sins, Holy God, free us and forgive us.
By Your gentle and firm Spirit, bend us from our stubborn resistance.
Warm our hearts to welcome Your embrace; quicken our voices to sing Your praise.**

**Fulfill Your will in us and through us,
that the world would see in us a witness to Your power and glory.**

...time for silent personal confession

People Singing:

**But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do**

Assurance of Pardon

Ronnie Bailey

Leader: Now stand firm in your faith, covered by the saving grace of God and ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God.

*Act of Praise (please stand) *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Hymnal, No. 101

This hymn has been described as the greatest hymn of the English language! It is also one of the most beloved of Watts' output. Watts was deeply disappointed with the hymns of his day. He felt they failed to inspire his parishioners to genuine worship and holy living. So, the story goes, he composed this meaningful hymn text on a Sunday afternoon and it was then sung at the evening service.

Isaac Watts, 1707

Lowell Mason, 1824

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the
3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sor - row and
4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a

Prince of glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down; Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet, Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination
Epistle Reading
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Ephesians 1:2-14

Sue Sanford
Pew Bible, NT, page 191

Time with the Children

As the children gather

Where Children Belong

Ronnie Bailey

Congregation Singing

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.

Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayers and song:

This is where children belong.

Children go to JAM after time with children.

Sermon

Born Winners

Tim Spring

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn of Response

Church of God, Elect and Glorious

see bulletin page 6

Faith Community Concerns, the Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Steve Crocco

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.

The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

Call to Offering

Tim Spring

A Musical Offering

Seeds

Diane McNally, Ken Crawford, Paul Banahasky

Ralph Murphy & Pat Alger, 1992

Sometimes I stop on my way home, and watch the children play.

And I wonder if they wonder what they'll be someday?

Some will dream a big dream, and make it all come true;

While others go on dreaming of things they'll never do . . .

(Refrain)

Refrain

We're all just seeds . . . in God's hands.

We start the same . . . but where we land

Is sometimes fertile soil and sometimes sand . . .

We're all just seeds . . . in God's hands

I saw a friend the other day I hardly recognized.

He'd done a lot of living since I'd last looked in his eyes.

He told his tale of how he'd failed, the lessons he'd been taught.

But he offered no excuses, and he left me with this thought . . .

(Refrain)

*And as I'm standing at a crossroads once again . . .
I'm reminded we're all the same when we begin . . .
And in the end . . .
(Refrain)*

Prayer of Dedication

Tim Spring

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

Charge

Tim Spring

Benediction

Diane, Ken, Paul and Congregation

After the song is sung in its entirety, the congregation is then invited to **STAND and sing** a blessing to those around

The Blessing

Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe *and* Steven Furtick, 2020
(The) Lord bless you . . . and keep you . . .
Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you!
The Lord turn His . . . face toward you,
And give you peace!

A _____ men! . . . A _____ men! . . . A _____ men!
A _____ men! . . . A _____ men! . . . A _____ men!

HYMN SING – The Texts of Isaac Watts

I Sing the Mighty Power of God - Hymnal No. 288 (sts. 1 & 3)

Based on Genesis 1

**I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise;
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.**

**There's not a plant or flower below but makes Thy glories known;
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.**

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need – Hymnal No. 172 (sts. 1 & 3)

Paraphrase of Psalm 23

**My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is His name:
In pastures fresh He makes me feed, beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake His ways;
And leads me, for His mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.**

**The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may Your House be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;
No more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home.**

Joy to the World – Hymnal No. 40 (sts. 1 & 4)

This paraphrase of Psalm 98 was originally written to give the Psalms a New Testament meaning and style. The text is more about the Second coming of Christ, not the birth of Christ and thus rather interesting it has become one of the most loved/sung beloved Christmas Carol.

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past - Hymnal No. 210 (sts. 1 & 5) Paraphrase of Psalm 90:1-5

**Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.**

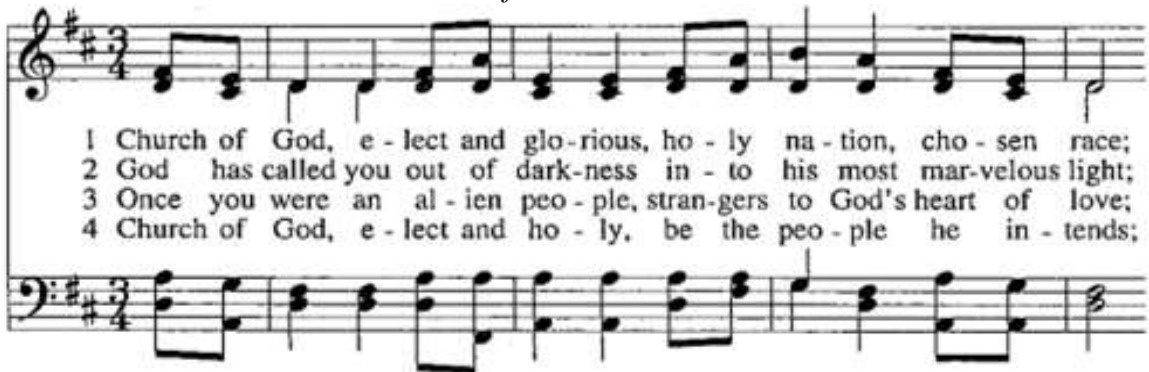
**Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.**

From All That Dwell Below the Skies – Hymnal No. 229 (sts. 1 & 3) Paraphrase of Psalm 117

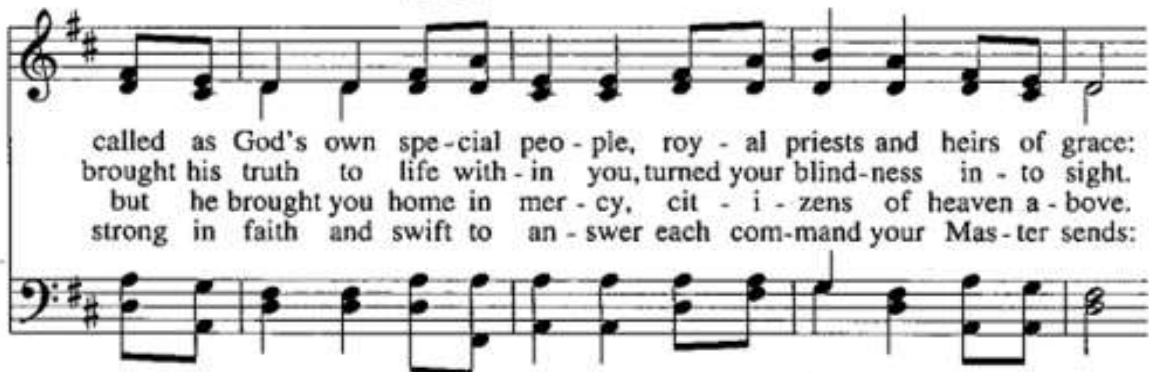
**From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;
Eternal truth attends Thy Word:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

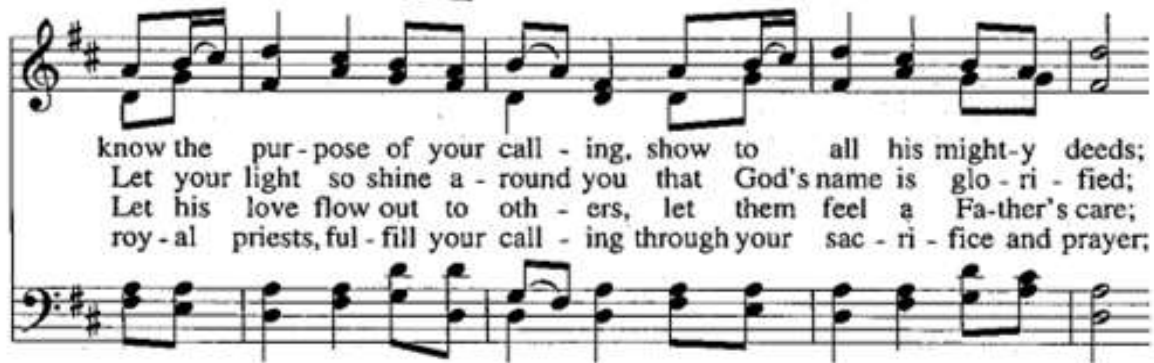
Church of God, Elect and Glorious



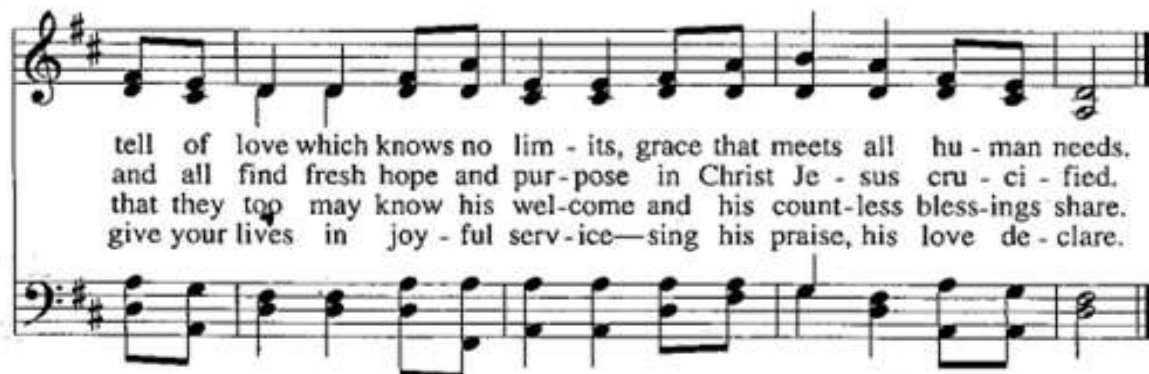
1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, ho - ly na - tion, cho - sen race;
2 God has called you out of dark - ness in - to his most mar - velous light;
3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple, stran - gers to God's heart of love;
4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, be the peo - ple he in - tends;



called as God's own spe - cial peo - ple, roy - al priests and heirs of grace:
brought his truth to life with - in you, turned your blind - ness in - to sight.
but he brought you home in mer - cy, cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove.
strong in faith and swift to an - swer each com - mand your Mas - ter sends:



know the pur - pose of your call - ing, show to all his might - y deeds;
Let your light so shine a - round you that God's name is glo - ri - fied;
Let his love flow out to oth - ers, let them feel a Fa - ther's care;
roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing through your sac - ri - fice and prayer;



tell of love which knows no lim - its, grace that meets all hu - man needs.
and all find fresh hope and pur - pose in Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.
that they too may know his wel - come and his count - less bless - ings share.
give your lives in joy - ful serv - ice—sing his praise, his love de - clare.

WORDS: James E. Seddon (1915-1983), para. 1 Peter 2:9-12
MUSIC: John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813
Words © 1982 Jubilee Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)

NETTLETON
8.7.8.7.D.

WORSHIP INFORMATION

Celebrating Isaac Watts – known as “the Father of English hymnody” he is being celebrated this year upon his 350th Birthday! Born on July 17, 1674 in Southampton, Hampshire, England. Died November 25, 1748 in Stoke Newington, London (aged 74). Isaac is credited with writing somewhere around 750 hymn texts. [We will not *be singing all of them today!*] They have been embraced and published by many denominations – Baptists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists and others. Watts’ special God-given talent as a wordsmith paired with his fresh philosophy toward hymnody made him one of the most influential hymn writers the world has ever known. Watts was passionate about hymnody. He believed the hymns of the church should be filled with the message of the Gospel and that the text should express the thoughts and feelings of the singer. This new philosophy broke away from the Calvinistic belief that the church must only sing the Old Testament Psalms [many Presbyterian sects back in the day]. Watts’ writings were pivotal in the overarching view of church history. One of the most famous of all his hymns, *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* - his paraphrase of Psalm 90 and almost equally as well known, *Jesus Shall Reign* – part of his paraphrase of Psalm 72 (WE SANG this last Sunday 7/7/24). These and numerous other Watts hymn texts are still in use in many churches around the world today! *Happy Birthday Isaac!*

-information taken from Britannica online/Wikipedia/an article by Alan Yarbrough

Sharing in the Ministry of Music this morning:

Diane McNally, Vocals / Ken Crawford, Guitar and Vocals / Paul Banahasky, Bass Guitar

Worship next Sunday, July 21 – 8:30 am and 10:00 am – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost.

Tim Spring’s message will be *Holy Words* based on Psalm 23.

Eric Waggoner will be our Guest Musician for the morning.

JAM stands for “**Jesus And Me**” and are our 2 classes for children. Kindergarten through Grade 2 and Grades 3-6. We welcome middle schoolers who want to mentor and build relationships with our younger kids. **JAM** will be held after Children’s Time that takes place during worship. We will have an engaging, fun, children’s sermon. Following that, children will join their classes in the upper level. Contact Ronnie with questions.

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- *The Presbyterian Hymnal* – 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press.
- *Where Children Belong - Sing the Faith* © 2003 by Geneva Press; adapted and compiled by permission from *The Faith We Sing* © 2000 Abingdon Press. Music/text: James Ritchie.
- *Worship & Rejoice* © 2001 Hope Publishing Company. *Church of God, Elect and Glorious, Hymnal* No. 541.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FREE! Recently, several groups who use the OPC kitchen on a regular basis cleaned house. Items that are never used have been placed on tables in Friendship Hall. Please feel free to take whatever you may need or want. The items will be on the tables Sunday, July 14 and Sunday, July 21. Anything left after the 21st will be donated.

Chancel Flowers – Are you interested in placing flowers in the sanctuary some Sunday to provide beauty to worship?. **Contact Carla Lowman (412-826-5914) to RSVP your date** with info and wording for the bulletin. **Available dates: July 21; AUG 18 and 25; SEPT 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

Deacons - Food Donations - Thank you for your donations to the food banks at RCAC and Verona Methodist Church supporting families in our community. Please continue to place donations in the shopping carts or drop off financial donations to the office/collection plate. Questions – contact Chris Wilson at 412-779-7024. Deacons are **collecting SUMMER CLOTHING**. The bin will be in the 5th Street vestibule. If you need something picked up contact Bobbie Lio 412-310-8807.

Soups On – Available soups: Spicy Black Bean Soup and Pennsylvania Garden Soup. Stop down at the kitchen freezer and take a container to a friend, neighbor, or relative who needs a cup of cheer and to see your smiling face! We will start up again in the fall. Contact Barbara Price with questions 412-727-7695.

From Bridge Pastor Team: We are pleased to have completed our interviews and have secured an experienced and compassionate Bridge Pastor matching well with OPC culture to begin his calling as of 10/01/24. There are few additional approval steps with the Presbytery that need to take place before we can make a formal announcement to the congregation which is planned to occur prior to the end of July.

Nick Kokales & Sally Huber-Lewis, Co-Chairs, Chris Hudak, Christine Little, David Geis, James Kinter - moderated by Rev. Dr. Edwin Van Driel

One of the many changes that will be happening this year at OPC is that Maureen Stecik, **Program Staff Assistant, will retire at the end of August** after 20 years at OPC. There is no way we will be able to replace Maureen, who has served faithfully in this position for many years, but we need to find someone who can take on the many tasks!

If you know someone who may be interested, please see Sam Anderson, Chair of Personnel, or email Sam at sam128@comcast.net. The position is 25 hr/week and requires strong computer skills, good communication skills, the ability to multi-task, and to work well as part of a team.

CHURCH CALENDAR

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|------------------|--|
| SUNDAY | July 14 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost |
| 8:30 am | Worship (Sanctuary) |
| 10:00 am | Worship (Sanctuary) & Via Livestream & children’s JAM (K-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) |
| MONDAY | July 15 |
| 12:00 pm | AA’s (Small Group Room) |
| 7:00 pm | Pastor Nominating Committee (Dining Room) |
| TUESDAY | July 16 |
| WEDNESDAY | July 17 |
| 10:00 am | Women’s AA (Dining Room) |
| 12:15 pm | Staff Meeting (Small Group Room) |
| THURSDAY | July 18 |
| 8:00 pm | NA’s (Dining Room) |
| FRIDAY | July 19 |
| SATURDAY | July 20 |
| 8:00 pm | AA’s (Dining Room) |
| SUNDAY | July 21 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost |
| 8:30 am | Worship (Sanctuary) |
| 10:00 am | Worship (Sanctuary) & Via Livestream & children’s JAM (K-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6) |

OPC STAFF

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| The Rev. Dr. Tim E. Spring | Interim Pastor |
| The Rev. Dr. Stephen Crocco | Associate Pastor |
| Michael P. Frank, III | Director of Music Ministries/Organist |
| Ronnie Bailey | Education Director for Children and Youth |
| Maureen Stecik | Program Staff Assistant |
| Tracy Messenger | Financial Secretary of Accounting |
| Marge Kuhn | Financial Secretary of Contributions |
| David Brennan | Custodian |
| Roberta Erickson | Handbell Choir Director |
| Ron Burkert | AV Team Coordinator |
| The Rev. Dr. Steve Wilson | Honorably Retired Pastor Emeritus |

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