

Sept. 17, 2023 Commissioning Sunday

GOD GATHERS US FOR WORSHIP

Welcome and God's Greeting

Holy God We Praise Your Name (*Lift Up Your Hearts, #540*)

Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you
Saints on earth your rule acclaim; all in heav'n above adore you
Infinite your vast domain; everlasting is your reign

Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name you
Though in essence only one, undivided God, we claim you
and adoring bend the knee while we own the mystery

God We Sing Your Glorious Praises (*LUYH, #519*)

God, we sing your glorious praises as we tell your awesome deeds;
you have fashioned all creation, and you meet each creature's
needs.

We rejoice in how your people tasted your great faithfulness;
graced through every generation, we your mighty acts profess.

We remember, God, your covenant, which extends from heaven to earth;

how Christ's death and resurrection conquers sin, renews our birth.

Thank you for this gospel message, which inspires your church to preach

grace to every generation in our deeds and in our speech.

Fueled by power from your Spirit, we commit ourselves anew to be faithful to your gospel in the daily work we do.

We will shout your glorious praises, telling all who have not heard; grace for every generation is embodied in your Word.

Lord, we offer you our worship as we celebrate your grace which you shower on your people gathered here and everywhere.

Blessed by water, Word, and table, we, your church, now pledge to share

grace through every generation in our witness, work, and prayer.

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound (LUYH, #266)

The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone.
Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.

True faith will open up the door and step into the street.
True service will seek out the poor and ask to wash their feet.

True love will not sit idly by when justice is denied.
True mercy hears the homeless cry and welcomes them inside.

If what we have we freely share to meet our neighbor's need,
then we extend the Spirit's care through every selfless deed.

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Prayer of Confession: Father God, we've just sung that we want to freely share to meet our neighbour's need. That's a huge calling you've given every Christ-follower - to join your mission of sharing your Gospel's good news to all. You have called this church to take up your mission in this neighbourhood and also around the world: to feed the hungry, bring water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and free the prisoner. We repent of leaving this work to a few, for this mission is central to our being. God, we make this affirmation responsively to you

now with our confidence in your forgiveness and assurance that you will help us live up to what you've called us to:

One: Lord, our homes belong to you.

All: And their futures belong to you.

One: Lord, this church belongs to you.

All: And its future belongs to you.

One: Lord, our schools belong to you. The children and youth in our church belong to you, Lord; they fit into the fabric of our church.

All: And their futures belong to you.

One: You know the plans You have for our homes, our churches, our schools, and our ministries in this fall season, Lord – plans to prosper us, to give us hope and a future. Show us Your plans for our homes, for the youth in our church, for our families, for our schools and for this new season of ministry. Help us to see the needs around us.

All: Show us feet to wash, hands to hold and hearts to hear.

One: Use all of us in this body – every generation belongs to you. Unite young, old and all generations between. Our hearts, our hands, and our feet all belong to you. Amen.

Thank you, Jesus A song to bless our children: Swahili worship song led by Nancy and Gideon

Blessing of the backpacks: Gracious God, we pray today on behalf of our students. They commit themselves to study and learn in the school year ahead and we ask your blessing on each of them. Their backpacks hold the work and the learning of each student and as they carry them from home to school and back again, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation. We pray also for the teachers in our congregation. May they also be sustained in their work by your blessing. May they be reminded that this congregation embraces their call to teaching and learning and surrounds them with love and care as well. We pray in the name of Jesus who we seek to follow day by day. Amen.

GOD GIVES US HIS WORD

Scripture: John 15:9-17

Message: **“Commissioned to Love”**

Commissioning

Commissioning Prayer

Response song: ***Here I Am Lord*** (LUYH, 869)

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them?

Whom shall I send?

Refrain

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.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them.

Whom shall I send?

Refrain

GOD SENDS US OUT TO SERVE

Offering: Shalem Mental Health Network

Benediction

Thuma mina/Send Me, Lord (LUYH, #945)

Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me Lord

Lead me, Jesus

Fill me, Jesus

Send me, Jesus

BLESSING AND PRAYER: May God, our heavenly Father, who has given you this wonderful opportunity and privilege to be his ministers, enlighten, strengthen, and govern you by his Word and Spirit that you may serve faithfully and fruitfully to the glory of his name and the coming of the kingdom of his Son, Jesus Christ. And so we pray together:

Christ, you are the Head. We seek to live your life where you have placed us. By the transforming power of Your Holy Spirit,

• May we be Your heart, to empathize with human need in our community

- *May we be Your eyes, to see the walls we have erected which keep others from You*
- *May we be Your mouth, to invite others into a loving relationship with Father, Son and Spirit*
- *May we be Your feet, to come alongside others whom your Spirit has gifted*
- *May we be Your hands, to work in partnership for the Father's glory.*

For the sake of Jesus and in his name, Amen.