



August 29, 2021

# Traditional Service – 8:30 am

## Scripture for Meditation

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,  
God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you  
out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)

## Prelude

### Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

(Lloyd Larson)

## Welcome and Call to Worship

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all

People: And also with you

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

## Announcements

## Opening Hymn

### I Love to Tell the Story

#262

I love to tell the story of unseen things above:  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true.  
It satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story. 'Tis pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy word. [Refrain]

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. [Refrain]

## Psalm Response

### Psalm 98

Sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things;

**His right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salvation for him.**

The LORD has made his salvation known  
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

**He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel;**

**all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**  
Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,  
burst into jubilant song with music;  
**Make music to the LORD with the harp,**  
**with the harp and the sound of singing,**  
With trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—  
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.  
**Let the sea resound, and everything in it,**  
**the world, and all who live in it.**  
Let the rivers clap their hands,  
let the mountains sing together for joy;  
**Let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.**  
**He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.**

### **Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Gracious God, we confess that all too often, we do not trust in your abiding presence. We tend to center our lives in other places like achievement, relational status, influence, friendships, or what we can understand. We forget that we are the branches of the true vine, Jesus Christ. Forgive us for substituting your sustaining presence with other gods. Help us to integrate our lives around Jesus Christ, the living center. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

*(People silently offer their personal confessions to God.)*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News:

**People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

### **Anthem by Christopher Williams**

#### **Response**

#### **Glory Be to the Father**

**#961**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be  
World without end. Amen, Amen.

#### **Scripture Reading**

#### **John 15:1-11**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God!**

#### **Sermon**

#### **Together: Centered on Jesus Christ**

#### **Offertory**

#### **Prayer**

(Hugo Wolf)

(Offerings are received weekly via mail and online giving at <https://villagechurchnorthbrook.org/give/>. Those attending live worship can leave their donations in the offering plates in the Narthex.)

**Doxology****Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
 Praise Him, above ye heavenly hosts;  
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer****Closing Hymn****The Church's One Foundation****#251**

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
 she is his new creation by water and the Word.  
 From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;  
 her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
 one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
 and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder the world sees her oppressed,  
 by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
 yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
 she waits the consummation of peace forevermore,  
 till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
 and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God the Three in One,  
 and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
 O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
 like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

**Benediction****Postlude**

**Jesus Medley**  
 (Hugh S Livingston, Jr.)

# Contemporary Service - 10:00 am

## Scripture for Meditation

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,  
God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you  
out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)

## Prelude

## Welcome

## Call to Worship

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

## Praise and Prayer

## We Praise You

CCLI #7130961 | Brandon Lake, Brian Johnson, Matt Redman, and Phil Wickham  
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## This I Believe

CCLI #7018338 | Ben Fielding and Matt Crocker  
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## Prayer of Confession

## Announcements

## Special Music by Christopher Williams

## Scripture Reading

## John 15:1-11

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

## Sermon

## Together: Centered on Jesus Christ

## Offering by Christopher Williams

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## Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

### Closing Song

### God with Us

CCLI #7054539 | Bryan Torwalt and Katie Torwalt  
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### Blessing

### Postlude

#### WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Welcome and Announcements  
Liturgist  
Scripture Reader

Director of Music  
Pianist (8:30)  
Soloist (8:30)  
Soloist (8:30 and 10:00)  
Pianist (10:00)  
Worship Band (10:00)

Audio/Visual Team

Rev. Dr. Spencer Lundgaard  
Rev. Greg Buell  
Ron Mantegna (8:30)  
Jack West (10:00)  
Ruth G. Heald  
Sharon Peterson  
Erin Carney  
Christopher Williams  
Jim Peterson  
Carl Tobias, electric guitar; Luke Stoner, bass guitar  
Christine Cheung, synthesizer; Deb Valkenaar, Sarah Lee,  
Renate Graham and Ellen Westel, vocals  
Ed Burton, Kyle Johnston, Todd Luke

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# Reflection Questions

## John 15:1-11

### Connecting with One Another

When you reflect upon your week, where do you spend your time and energy?

### Listening and Acting

Please use this guide to reflect upon the sermon and how the Holy Spirit might be asking you to respond this week.

1. Share or write about what impacted you most about the sermon this week?
2. What does it mean to abide in God's presence?
3. What is the connection between fruit and pruning?
4. Where in your life do you need to be pruned by Jesus Christ?
5. What does it mean to create a life and a church where Jesus Christ is the living center?
6. What are some of the obstacles that get in the way?

### Talking with God

As you pray this week, lift up those who are considering making Jesus Christ the center of their life by trusting in him as Lord and Savior. Please pray for the Village Church as we continue to create ministries and communities which revolve around Jesus Christ. Please pray for those struggling in life due to illness, marriage, job dynamics, food security, or isolation.