



**Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church
Online Worship Service
Sunday, September 26, 2021
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Jennie Sankey

Introit

Hyoun Joo Song

Call to Worship:

One: May the words of God bring to each of us conviction, challenge, and comfort, as our lives and choices this day require.

All: Shape us even now, O Lord.

One: Prepare our bodies for the labors of this day.

All: Give us strength and health to complete them.

One: Prepare our minds for the demands of this day.

All: Grant us clarity, creativity, and discernment.

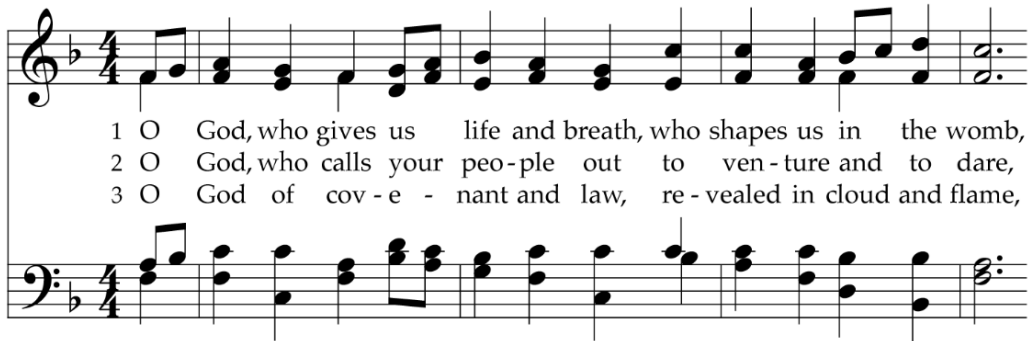
One: Prepare our souls for those sorrows and joys and celebrations and disappointments we will encounter, that every circumstance would serve only to draw us nearer to you.

All: May our words, our choices, and our actions today be offered as true expressions of worship. Come, let us worship God!

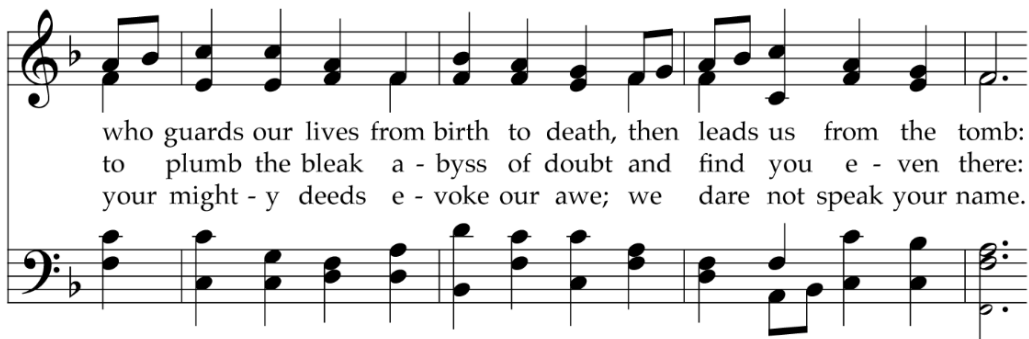
Hymn 53

Oh God, Who Gives Us Life

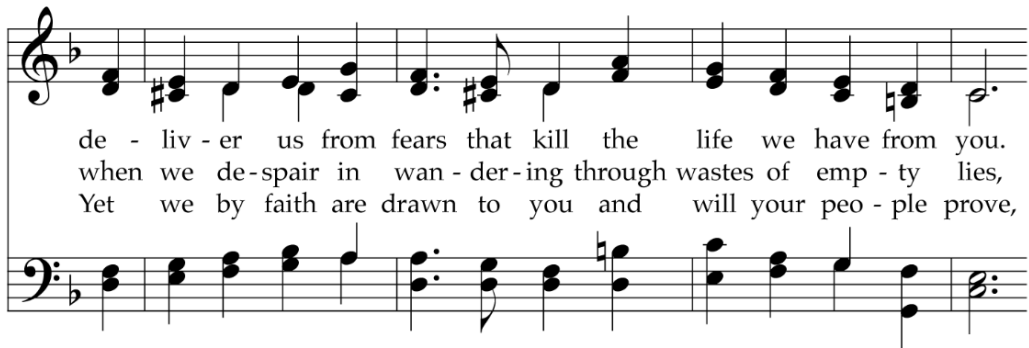
53 O God, Who Gives Us Life



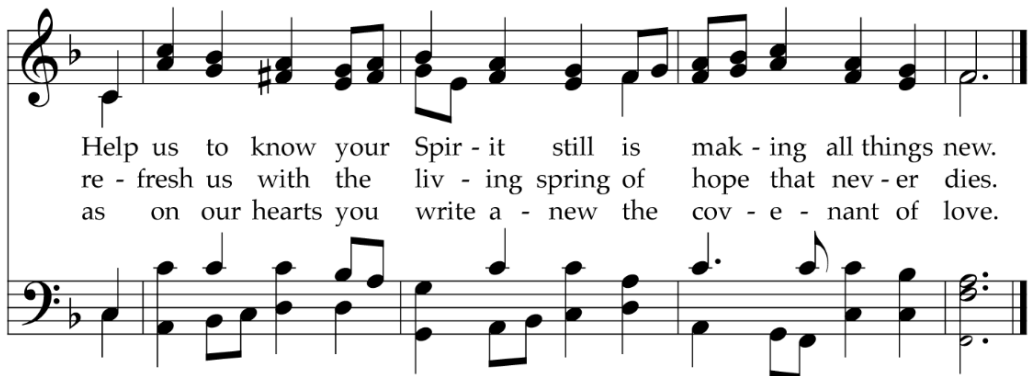
1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven-ture and to dare,
 3 O God of cov-e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de-spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

Call to Confession

The Rev. Katie Day

Prayer of Confession

It is our desire to serve you well, O God, but we have again fallen short of your righteousness in our thoughts, our intentions, our actions, and our utterances. We have responded at times without grace. We have chosen sometimes that which is unprofitable and which leads neither to our own flourishing nor to the proclamation of your glory. Forgive us, O King, for treasons both known and unknown. Forgive us for the harms we have done this day, and for the goods we might have done but failed to do; forgive us also for the self-serving impulses, inclinations, and desires which stand us every moment in need of a savior. Let our inability to ever perfectly love you drive us daily to the arms of Christ and the enormity of your mercy and grace. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

The Word Read and Proclaimed

Children's Sermon

Anthem

For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Prayer for Illumination

Olivia Su

Scripture Reading

Esther 7:1-6, 10, 9:20-22

7 1 So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. **2** On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." **3** Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. **4** For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king."^[a] **5** Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" **6** Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

20 Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, **21** enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, **22** as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Scripture Reading

Mark 9:38-50

38 John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone[a] casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” **39** But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. **40** Whoever is not against us is for us. **41** For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

42 “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me,[b] it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. **43** If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell,[c] to the unquenchable fire.[d] **45** And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.[e][f] **47** And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,[g] **48** where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. **49** “For everyone will be salted with fire.[h] **50** Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it?[i] Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Sermon

“Living Well, Dying Well: Evaluating”

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith

adapted from The Heidelberg Catechism

Q. 1. What is your only comfort, in life and in death?

A. That I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, He also watches over me in a such a way that not a hair can fall from my hand without the will of God in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, Christ also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Q. 21. What is true faith?

B. True faith is a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel--that God has freely granted not only to others but to me also--forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted by Christ’s merit.

Prayer for the People

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn 692

Spirit Open My Heart

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

692 Spirit, Open My Heart

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)
F B^b F B^b C7

Refrain

Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of

(Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7) (Bm) (D/A) (Em)
Dm F/C B^b C7 Dm F/C Gm

liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

(D) (G) (Em7) (D) (G) (D)
F B^b Gm7 F B^b F

and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

(D) (G) (D) (G)
F B^b F B^b

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

(A7) (Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7)
C7 Dm F/C B^b C7

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
sis - ter, broth - er. In the wel - come of

(Bm) (Em7) (D) (G2) (G)
Dm Gm7 F B^b2 B^b

to Refrain

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
Christ, may we wel - come one an - oth - er.

The pace and diversity of modern life often hinder us from remaining vulnerable to our emotions and to the humanness of other people. This prayerful text to be open to such joys and pains draws on Ezekiel 11:19 and 36:26 in stanza one and echoes Jeremiah 31:33 in stanza two.

Invitation to Offering

- To give: ● return to www.pleasanthillpc.org and click on the Giving tab or
- text givePHPC to 73256 or
 - mail your offering to the church – 3700 Pleasant Hill Road Duluth, GA 30096

Prayer of Dedication**Following the Word into the World****Charge and Benediction****Postlude**

Parts of this morning's liturgy are adapted from
A Liturgy of the Hours: Daybreak and *A Liturgy of the Hours: Nightfall*
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