

**Morning Worship  
9:30 AM  
August 24, 2025  
Proper 16**

***GATHERING AROUND THE WORD***

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Leader:** The Lord be with you!

**People:** And also with you!

**✠ PASSING THE PEACE**

**PRELUDE**

*"If we were supposed to talk more than we listen, we would have two  
tongues and one ear."*

*-- Mark Twain*

## ✦CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Before we got up this morning and decided to come to church,

**People: God was waiting for us, to welcome us with grace.**

Leader: When we are unsure of what to do; when we falter before the next step,

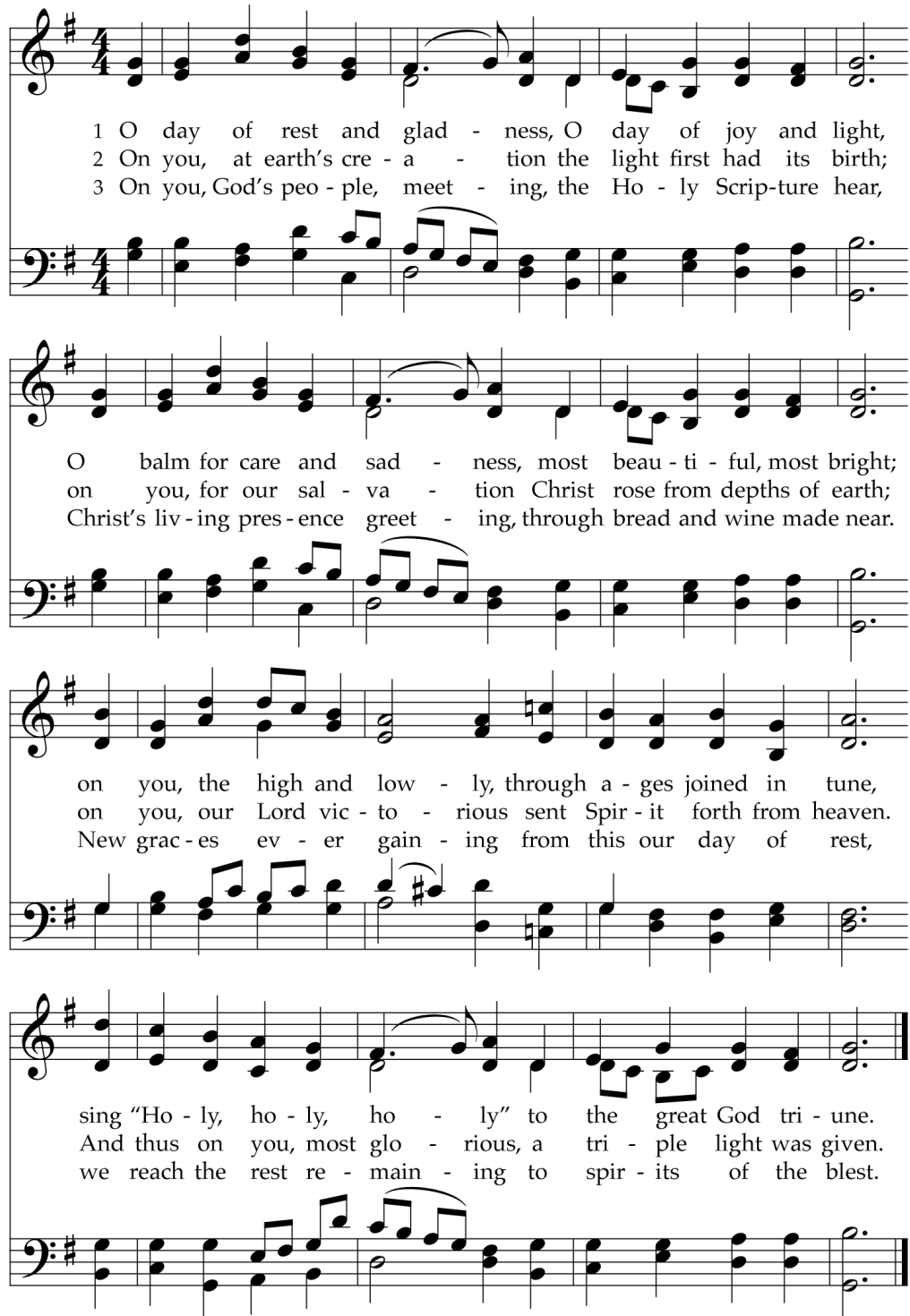
**People: We come to listen to God's voice, to learn from the One who teaches us all we ever need to know.**

Leader: When we are surrounded by cruelty and injustice; when our fears cripple our souls,

**People: God delivers us with steadfast love; we are set free to be children of God.**

## ✦HYMN

# 393 O Day of Rest and Gladness



1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,  
 2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion the light first had its birth;  
 3 On you, God's peo - ple, meet - ing, the Ho - ly Scrip-ture hear,

O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright;  
 on you, for our sal - va - tion Christ rose from depths of earth;  
 Christ's liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, through bread and wine made near.

on you, the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,  
 on you, our Lord vic - to - rious sent Spir - it forth from heaven.  
 New grac - es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,

sing "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly" to the great God tri - une.  
 And thus on you, most glo - rious, a tri - ple light was given.  
 we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.

## ✠CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Leader: When we were children, we learned not to touch hot things so we would not be burned. If only avoiding sin was that easy! But sin seems so comfortable, so easy, and so harmless that we cannot stop ourselves from reaching out to touch it over and over again. Let us confess our lives to the One who chooses to forgive us and love us unconditionally, as we pray together, saying,

### ✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*

Yet once more, we come to you with our prayers, Holy God. Our crippling spirits keep us from following you. Our grudges weigh us down until we cannot walk straight in your way. Our anger becomes a fire which scorches our friends and loved ones. Our fears blind us to the goodness in those we believe to be different.

Forgive us, God our Rock, and set us free from our wrong-doings and failures. From the day of our birth, we have known your love, grace, and hope. So may we offer you our joyful thanks, as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, reaches out to touch us with your healing forgiveness, yet once more.

### ✠TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

### ✠ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Leader: God chooses not to turn a deaf ear to us, but to listen to our prayers.  
God chooses not to shame us, but to save us.

People: **This is, indeed, good news for us! We are set free to drink deeply from the waters of life. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### ✠RESPONSE OF JOY #582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

## ***PROCLAIMING THE WORD***

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leader: Without your Spirit, O God, the words that we now read are dead letters.  
Without your Spirit, O God our hearts are dead as well. Come to us  
Spirit of God, that your Word and our hearts are raised to life at your coming.

People: **Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READING (CEB)

**Luke 13:10-17**

Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. A woman was there who had been disabled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and couldn't stand up straight. When he saw her, Jesus called her to him and said, "Woman, you are set free from your sickness." He placed his hands on her and she straightened up at once and praised God. The synagogue leader,

incensed that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, responded, “There are six days during which work is permitted. Come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath day.” The Lord replied, “Hypocrites! Don’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from its stall and lead it out to get a drink? Then isn’t it necessary that this woman, a daughter of Abraham, bound by Satan for eighteen long years, be set free from her bondage on the Sabbath day?” When he said these things, all his opponents were put to shame, but all those in the crowd rejoiced at all the extraordinary things he was doing.

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to you and to the church.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## **MOMENTS WITH THE CHILDREN**

Vanna Ortiz

*(Children K-5 are then invited to accompany the leader to Children’s Chapel)*

## **SERMON**

***“Triangles of Selective Hearing”***

Rev. Seth Finch

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS\*\*** *(A Silence)*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Monica Hinga

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER (Mark Berry, Emerging Church Movement)**

O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere! Release a space to plant your Presence here. Imagine your possibilities now. Embody your desire in every light and form. Grow through us this moment’s bread and wisdom. Untie the knots of failure binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others’ faults. Help us not forget our Source, yet free us from not being in the Present. From you arises every vision, power and song from gathering to gathering. May our future actions grow from here! Amen

## **OFFERING**

### **✦RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING #712**

In gratitude and humble trust, we bring our best today,  
to serve your cause and share your love  
with all along life’s way.  
O God who gave yourself to us  
in Jesus Christ your Son,  
help us to give ourselves each day  
until life’s work is done.

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

### **✦HYMN**

# Help Us Accept Each Other 754

1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;  
2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life  
3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved  
4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,

teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.  
we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.  
in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;  
who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,

Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve  
Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,  
to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart  
we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:

we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.  
to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.  
the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.  
re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

## ✠BENEDICTION

## ✠POSTLUDE

## ✠THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

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### COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9315 Candelaria Road NE Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112

Church Office: 299-3621

Web Site: [covpresnm.org](http://covpresnm.org)

Rev. Seth Finch, Pastor

Vanna Ortiz, Spiritual Care Director/Children	Mary Heidel, Business Administrator/Youth
Jeff Jolly, Music Director	Maki Kimura, Accompanist
James Larson, Sexton	Anna Sohn, Youth
Victoria Roanhorse, Cadie Cordova, Hadiya Rezaie-Nursery Attendants	
Judy Liddell, Sarah Kotchian, Hunter Downs, Jerry Kuyk, Jack Dietz, Tanya Blankinship, Ellen Powell— Parish Visitors	