



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 19, 2021

Due to COVID precautions, we are asking everyone in the congregation to remain masked and, for now, to enjoy listening to the soloist sing the hymns and responses in joyful anticipation of the day when we may once again sing together.

MEDITATION

Not only is Jesus himself said to honor and welcome a mere child, but the saying in Mark 9:37 equates one's welcome of such a child with welcoming Jesus himself – and more, with welcoming the God who sent him. The Gospel Lesson is far from a saccharine scene in which Jesus cuddles sweet little children . . . it is a powerful, even shocking, depiction of the paradoxical values of Gods will and reign, which confront the dominant values of human societies and assign worth and importance to every person. *--Sharon H. Ringe*

PRELUDE: Andante tranquillo (from *Sonata No. 3*)

Felix Mendelssohn

John Finney, organist

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

All who are able, please rise for the Call to Worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Anna Thomas

One: Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

All: We gather to become more aware of God's presence.

One: Behold the beauty of God.

All: We gather to sing and make melody to our Creator.

One: Let us pray.

All: O God, the whole creation looks to you for care.

We are the children of your creation, who need insight and direction. Meet us here in this gathering that our worship may restore us to you. Amen.

Please be seated.

HYMN: Jesus Loves Me!

Jesus Loves Me

Hymns of Truth & Light (blue hymnal), #103

Tina Anderson and several children will be signing (not singing) this hymn in American Sign Language.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Trusting in God's mercy, let us use our voices to declare those things that have separated us from God and from each other.

All: God of Mercy: We confess that we have failed to live as your beloved sons and daughters. We have set our minds on the things of this world, neglected the inheritance of love you bestow, pursued selfish aims, and avoided responsibilities to our neighbors. Forgive us, we pray, free us from our ways and strengthen us to follow Jesus. Amen.

-- Silent confession --

One: Hear the good news: God does not judge by appearances or conditions but embraces with love such that we are restored to health and wholeness. Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

GLORIA

Music by Alice Jordan

Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

All who are able, please rise for the Passing of the Peace.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please be seated.

LESSON

Lay Reader: Faith Holloway

The text from James addresses “the bitter envy and selfish ambition” in a way that causes us to feel the real sting of it. North American culture depends on active envy and ambition as heavily as it depends on fossil fuels. Church can be one more place where believers strive against one another.

-- Barbara Brown Taylor

James 4:1-3, *NRSV*

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Mark's audience would have heard the word "child" as referring to someone like the servant who served meals to everyone else in the household, in that both were seen as without "honor" or high social standing. . . children and servants were of equally low social status. --Sharon H. Ringe

Mark 9:33-37, *NRSV*

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, *"What were you arguing about on the way?"* But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, *"Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."* Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, *"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."*

Reader: For the Word of God in scripture,
among us, and within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY: "A Counter-Cultural Activity"

Jill Edens

ANTHEM: Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown *arr. Jason W. Krug*

The Hills Bells: Susan Holm, Lucy O'Mara, Beth Ross,
Chris Stowell, Martha Stowell (Director), Libby Zobel

PRAYER CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

OUR 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.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – *Harold Wilkinson for CSSB* (see insert)

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

Holy God, you are our soil, our food, our water, our sun,
everything we need to grow. We offer our gifts to you, asking
for direction, as we work each day so that your reign of light
and justice becomes more and more of a reality in this world.
Amen.

HYMN: Go, My Children, with My Blessing *Ar hyd y nos*
New Century Hymnal (black hymnal), #82

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

Please remain seated during the Postlude.

POSTLUDE: Prelude in C major *attrib. J. S. Bach*

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Jill Edens
Soloists: Laurie Stewart Otten, Shannon Lebrón,
Christian Figueroa, Stephen Lebrón

1. Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.
 2. Je - sus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long a - go,
 3. Je - sus loves me! still to - day, walk - ing with me on my way,

Lit - tle ones to him be - long; they are weak, but he is strong.
 tak - ing chil - dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."
 want - ing as a friend to give light and love to all who live.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

WORDS: St. 1, Anna B. Warner, 1860; sts. 2, 3, David R. McGuire, c. 1970
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1862

JESUS LOVES ME
 77.77 w. refrain

This song first appeared in a novel that was a collaboration between Anne Warner and her sister Susan. The two conducted Sunday classes for West Point cadets for many years.

I, God, am your playmate!
 I will lead the child in you in wonderful ways,
 for I have chosen you.

— Mechthild of Magdeburg, 1212-1283

Permission to podcast/stream music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-737581.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983, 1990; alt.

1 Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone;
2 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me;

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own;
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here with ten - der com - fort stilled you;

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

Words by Jaroslav J. Vajda

©1983 Concordia Publishing House, All rights reserved.

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE

#A-737581. All rights reserved.

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
207 Washington Street at Chapel Place, Wellesley Hills, MA 02481
www.hillschurch.org • 781-235-4424

officeofthemoderator@hillschurch.org

Moderator	Sarah Pedersen
Moderator Emeritus	Chris Stowell
Rising Moderator	Jack Morgan
Clerk	Rich Sweeting
Assistant Treasurer	Nana Poku

Interim Co-Pastor	Rev. Dr. Jill Edens	jill@hillschurch.org
Interim Co-Pastor	Rev. Richard Edens	richard@hillschurch.org
Associate Minister	Rev. Judy Swahnberg	judy@hillschurch.org
Associate Minister	Rev. Anne Marie Holloway	annemarie@hillschurch.org

Chief Financial Officer	John Dooley	dooley@hillschurch.org
Children's Ministry	Sally Tomasetti	sallyt@hillschurch.org
Church Administrator	Susan MacDonald	susan@hillschurch.org
Director of Music	John Finney	johnf@hillschurch.org
Evening Sexton	Brian Aucoin	
Financial Coordinator	Jelena Kovrija	jelena@hillschurch.org
Early Childhood Music Director	Emily Gauthier	emczar00@hotmail.com
Nursery School Director	Melanie Dawson	director@wnsh

Soprano Soloist	Laurie Otten
Alto Soloist	Shannon Lebrón
Tenor Soloist	Christian Figueroa
Bass Soloist	Garrett Murphy
Sound Technician	Kenny Goshgarian
Sound Technician	Steven Hopkins

GOD
IS STILL
SPEAKING

WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION.
NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE,
NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE
ON LIFE'S JOURNEY,
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.