

## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Here I Am, Lord* Dan Schutte

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT MEDITATION

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to be hearers of the Word.

**Come to be doers of the Word.**

Come from a community where people are similar.

**Come to a community where people are different.**

Come to give away your possessions.

**Come to be rich in faith.**

Come to be “the other.”

**Come to love “the other.”**

Come to see a neighbor.

**Come to be a neighbor.**

\* HYMN 20 “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

### \* CONFESSION AND PARDON

*Call to Confession*

*Prayer of Confession*

**God of grace, you have chosen the poor to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that you have promised to those who love you.**

**Yet, we often forget and even dishonor the poor: we blame poor people for their circumstances, think more highly of ourselves than we ought, and neglect our calling to work for a just world.**

**Forgive us, O God.**

**By your Spirit, help us to see “the other” as you see them.**

**Replace our judging with your honoring, our self-righteousness with your humility, our apathy with your sacrificial love, that we might be neighbors in your new community.**

*Silent Prayers*

*Assurance of Pardon*

### \* SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE

Hymn 698 (three times) “Take, O Take Me as I Am”

**Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON James 2:1-13

SERMON “Impartial Integrity”  
*Integrity: Third in a series on the Book of James*

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

\* HYMN 318 “In Christ There Is No East or West”

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Confession of Belhar* (4)

We believe that God has revealed God’s self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; **that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;**

that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;

**that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;**

that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;

**that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;**

that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;

**that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;**

that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged;

that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

**Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.**

### GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Invitation to Self-Offering*

*Offertory The Sixth Station* Joe Hisaishi

\* *Doxology* (Hymnal, back page)

\* *Prayer of Dedication*

### CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

*The Lord’s Prayer*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## GOING OUT TO SERVE

\* HYMN 754 “Help Us Accept Each Other”

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Hymn 765 “May the God of Hope Go with Us”

POSTLUDE *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* Fred Bock

## END OF WORSHIP ... BEGINNING OF SERVICE



**We light two candles in worship.** The white candle reminds us of the presence of Christ’s spirit in worship. The smaller candle is in a candle holder made by a member of our partner church, Iglesia El Divino Salvador in Guatemala, and it reminds us of our covenant with them.

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**Bold font** indicates congregational participation.

\* You are invited to stand in body or in spirit.

**Today's liturgists:** Kim Presley  
**Today's greeters:** Bill Higgins and Leslie Hillman  
**Today's ushers:** Bill & Marlene Johnson  
**Fellowship:** Mary Jo Limbird's Care Group

**The Confession of Belhar**

*The Confession of Belhar* is the most recent of the modern confessions in the PC (USA)'s *Book of Confessions*, added in 2016 by the 222nd General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. Written in South Africa in the context of Apartheid, the original Afrikaans text was adopted by the synod of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa in 1986. Today's Affirmation of Faith is an excerpt from this confession and emphasizes that doing justice for the poor is an essential aspect of the Christian life.

**Out-to-Lunch Bunch**

Everyone is welcome to join the Out-to-Lunch Bunch for lunch after church today! We will be going to Post 25. See Mary Jo Limbird for more information about today's lunch outing.

**Summer Spirit Food Drive Challenge: 500 Items by Labor Day**

This is our final week to reach our goal of 500 items by Labor Day Sunday. We have already collected over 400 items. Please place your donated food items in the large soup can bin located in the Narthex. Peanut butter is a great item for children in need of nutrition.

**Men's Brunch Bunch** will meet at 10:30 AM this Saturday, September 1 at J.K's on Long Shoals. We gather every other Saturday to meet, eat, and enjoy fellowship together! Contact John Riley at 828-575-2894

**Worship bulletin announcements** for Sunday, September 2 are due to Administrator, Erin May, by noon on Wednesday, August 29.

**Calendar**

Sun	26	11:00 AM	Worship
		12:30 PM	Out-to-Lunch Bunch (see Mary Jo)
Wed	29	7:00 PM	Choir Practice
Sat	1	10:30 AM	Men's Brunch Bunch
Sun	2	11:00 AM	Worship
		12:30 PM	Out-to-Lunch Bunch (see Mary Jo)

**Sermon Series on the Book of James**

One of the biggest complaints about the church is that Christians don't always "walk their talk." What Christians say they believe isn't always demonstrated in their actions—judgment is more predominant than mercy and grace, hate more visible than love, and indifference and apathy more prevalent than sacrifice.

As Christians, we ourselves demonstrate that we don't really believe what we say we believe. When times are difficult, our actions reveal that we'd rather take our lives into our own hands than trust the God we profess to be generous. When our faith is tested, our doubts make us vulnerable to the allure of self-sufficiency and material security, and our neighbor becomes our competitor rather than the one we're called to love.

Yet, the Book of James says that God "gives to all generously and ungrudgingly." When we learn to see the world through the lens of God's abundance and really trust in God's generosity toward all, we are set free to risk living what we say we believe. Belief and action come into alignment, like interlocking gears smoothly working together, and there is inward and outward integrity. Join us as we learn life lessons about integrity from the Book of James. Next up:

- September 2: "Working Integrity" (James 2:14-26)
- September 9: "Speaking with Integrity" (James 3:1-12)
- September 16: "Friendships with Integrity" (James 1:5-8, 3:13-4:8a)
- September 23: "Relating with Integrity" (James 4:10-17)
- September 30: "Economic Integrity" (James 1:9-11, 5:1-6)
- October 7: "Praying with Integrity" (James 5:7-20)

**Memory Verses for the Week**

"Has God not chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that God has promised to those who love God?" (James 2:5)

"For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment." (James 2:13)

**New Hope Presbyterian Church**

*We are a welcoming, inclusive faith community, seeking to respond to Christ's call to love and serve, through ministries of compassion and social justice.*

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*New Hope  
 Presbyterian Church*

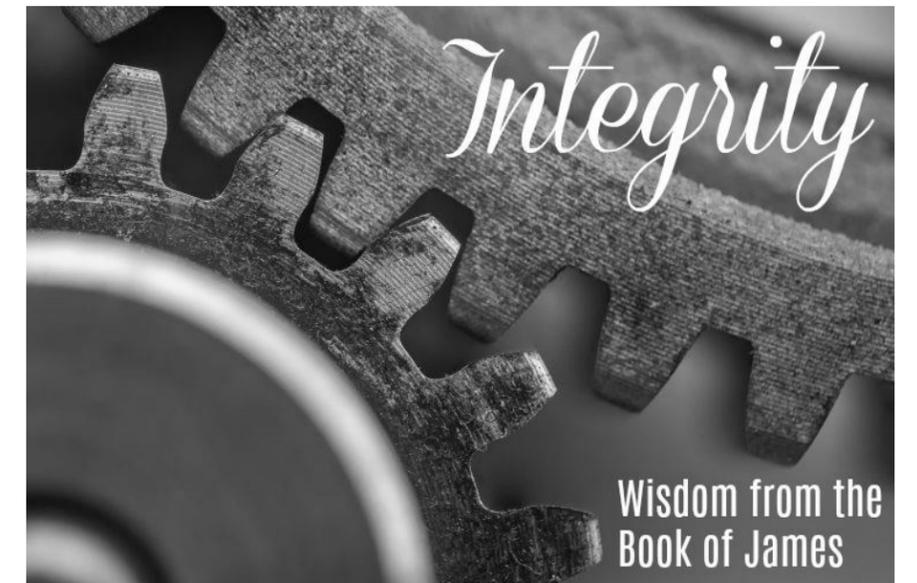
"Including, Renewing, Serving"

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
 August 26, 2018  
 11 o'clock



*"Impartial Integrity"*

Third in a series on the Book of James:



"You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors."  
 James 2:8-9