

# Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

“Gathered by Grace - Sent to Serve”

“Beauty, Contemplation, and Radical Compassion”

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 2020

## WELCOME

*Thank you for worshipping with us today!*

*If you have an email address and want to be on POP's weekly announcement list, please let the church office know. You can find worship each week at <https://princeofpeace-er.org/podcasts/>.*

*DVD's of the previous Sunday's worship are available by contacting the church office at 715-479-9263.*

*If you would like to support the mission of Prince of Peace so that we can continue worship, community outreach, and other ministries, you can give any amount by cash, check, online, through the Give+ app by Vanco, or by sending a text to 833-394-7887 (text your dollar amount and follow the prompts). Thank you for your generosity.*

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## **ORDER OF SERVICE**     *The assembly speaks the bold verses*

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### WELCOME

### THRESHOLD MOMENT

*“The difficulty and crisis of the world is overwhelming. It is virtually impossible to bear it without very deep resources.” - Wendy Farley*

Are you ready for a deeper well inside?

*Divine Goodness, prepare my spirit to see and be beguiled by the beauty of life. Amen.*

All things are beautiful—not by a standard of “pretty” as seen by our eyes, but by an essence of sacred worth that is sensed by the spirit. This is the root and heart of compassion and justice. Beauty is the threshold to Divine Goodness and a door into radical compassion. Contemplation trains our spirits to see this deeper truth. Over the next six weeks, we will pursue a contemplative life to deepen our spiritual capacities so that we might live as Beloveds of God who extend Goodness in the world.

**For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth,  
over and around us lies.  
God of all to thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise!**

## **SILENT CENTERING**

You are invited to a moment of quiet rest, a time of slowing the pace of your body and mind so that the spirit can settle.

## **PRAYER OF OPENING**

Divine Goodness, Holy One,  
pause us for this moment,  
bear us up in this time,  
hold us for eternity.

We offer ourselves in connection with you.

We allow ourselves this love from you.

We release ourselves into your presence.

And all the people say, **“Amen.”**

## **WE PROCLAIM**

### **Lectio Divina**

Beauty occurs in many ways through our rituals. *Divina* is of Latin and Italian origin meaning “divine or heavenly.” It is also a variant of *Davina* (Hebrew), meaning “loved one.” In this series, we will encounter the Divine Loved One through “Lectio Divina” with scripture, through “Sermo Divina”—the Latin origin of the word “sermon”—and through “Visio Divina”—images, music, and poetry. All of these are portals into a sensate experience of the holy. Some forms will pique your cognitive mind, but you can also allow some to simply wash over you, infusing your psyche and soul with a mysterious sense of wonder.

### ***Ezekiel 31: 3-7 (Inclusive Bible)***

Look to Assyria, once a Lebanon cedar  
[beautiful branches, dense shade, towering height;]  
it is top among the clouds.  
Springs nourished it,  
and deep waters made it grow tall;  
their streams flowed around its base,  
sending their channels to all the trees in the countryside.  
So it towered high above every other tree of the field.  
Its boughs grew larger and its branches extended out,  
nourished by an abundance of water.  
All the birds of the air nested in its boughs;  
under its branches wild animals gave birth to their young.  
All the great nations thrived in its shade.  
It was majestic in its beauty with its spreading boughs,  
its roots reaching deeply into an abundance of water.

## **A TIME OF CENTERING**

*“Beloved, God’s Chosen”*

**Beloved, God’s chosen,  
put on as a garment  
compassion, forgiveness,  
and goodness of heart.  
Above all, before all,  
let love be your raiment  
that binds into one ev’ry  
dissonant part.**

**Within, call forth Wisdom,  
to dwell in you richly;  
let peace rule your hearts  
and that peace be of Christ.  
And from the heart's  
chamber, beloved and holy,  
let singing thanksgiving to  
God ever rise.**

**Beloved, God's chosen,  
put on as a garment  
compassion, forgiveness  
and goodness of heart.  
Above all, before all,  
let love be your raiment  
that binds into one ev'ry  
dissonant part.**

**Sermo Divina**

**Pastor Andrea Fluegel**

**Visio Divina**

A veil of darkness covers our land,  
eyes blinded by billows of anger,  
where is the light in the midst of the clouds?  
Pierce the darkness of hate and injustice,  
let compassion and love break through,  
follow the Light,  
be the Light!  
Shine, shine brightly,  
bring hope amidst the dark despair.

**WE RESPOND**

**Prayers of the People**

Our prayers in this series will invite us to an open-eyed experience of “looking around.” I invite you to look around and find something to focus on. It may be a detail that you rarely see, or something that you see frequently but you can see it more deeply. Or you may let your gaze wander during prayers as a way of giving thanks for these surroundings. “Looking around”—whether we do that with our eyes or other senses—is how we notice the beauty in the world and in the people we encounter, but also how we notice the suffering and are called to intercede in prayer for the healing of all.

Verse 1: When you're tired and feel you can't get through

**Uncertainty comes over you**

**Just Look Around**

**When your problems seem too much to bear**

**Unsure if there's someone who cares**

**Just Look Around**

**Whether stranger, neighbor, family, or a friend**

**On each other in tough times we can depend.**

*Chorus:* Look Around – kindness, love is ours to share  
**We can see it everywhere**  
**Though it might seem like forever**  
**Look Around—for even in the darkest night**  
**Things are gonna be alright**  
**We'll get through this together**  
**Just Look Around!**

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*Brief silence.*

For our congregation. You have gathered us here today as your people, and we thank you for this gift. We pray for those who are new to this community, for students and teachers preparing for a new school year, and for those struggling with unexpected hardship. Supply us generously with your grace for our life together.

O Lord, we lift up to you all people and places and circumstances that are on our hearts and minds. (*Here other intercessions may be offered.*)

We give you thanks, O God, for the saints of the whole church from all times and places, and for the saints in our lives and in our community whom you have gathered to yourself.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 trespasses,**  
**as we forgive those**  
**who trespass against us;**  
**and lead us not into temptation,**  
**but deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom,**  
**and the power, and the glory,**  
**forever and ever. Amen.**

*Verse 2:* Sometimes it can be hard to see

**Life is full of possibilities**  
**So Look Around**  
**Each new day is such a gift**  
**Embrace it and the life you live**  
**And Look Around**  
**Outstretched arms and many helping hands**  
**Don't give up on all your dreams and all your plans.**

*Chorus:* Look Around – kindness, love is ours to share  
We can see it everywhere  
Though it might seem like forever  
Look Around—for even in our darkest night  
Things are gonna be alright  
We'll get through this together  
Just Look Around! Look Around!  
Just Look Around.

## **WE GO FORTH**

**CLOSING HYMN**        *“For the Beauty of the Earth”* (arrangement by Chuck Bell)

**For the beauty of the earth  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies;  
Lord of all to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night  
hill and vale, and tree and flower  
sun and moon, and stars of light;  
Lord of all to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above,  
for all the gentle thoughts and mild;  
Lord of all to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For thyself, best Gift Divine,  
to the world so freely given,  
for that great, great love of thine,  
peace on earth, and joy in heaven.  
Lord of all to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

## **BENEDICTION**

The world is so varied and beautiful.  
Seek wisdom wherever it is to be found.\*  
And may the goodness of the Creator,  
the companionship of the Christ,  
and the insight of the Spirit,  
infuse your life now and always.  
**Amen.**

**God of all to thee, we raise,  
This our hymn of grateful praise!**

## **POSTLUDE**

*\* The first two lines of the Benediction are a quote from Dr. Wendy Farley's father, Dr. Edward Farley, a renowned theologian.*

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## Announcements

\* Help our local health departments plan for the 2020-2021 Flu Season during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please take a brief moment to complete this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S5XXTMG>. Those living in *Oneida, Vilas, Forest and Lincoln Counties* can participate in this survey. Medical professionals are trying to get as many people as they can to get the flu vaccine this year. There are only 3 or 4 short questions, depending on how you answer.

\* We are offering outside communion under the portico. The portico will protect us from the elements so that we can still have communion if it rains. Note that this is not “drive up” communion. You will need to park your car near the portico and then walk to it. Communion will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please call the church office and leave a voicemail message with the day and time you prefer. We will contact you.

\* DVD’s of the previous Sunday’s worship are now available at POP! Please contact the church office via telephone (715-479-9263) if you would like one.

\* Lawn care is **still needed** this summer even though there is no public worship. Please call 715-479-9263 to sign up. Thank you to those who have signed up to help.

\* Thank you so much for thinking about the Northland Pines School District students and families. There will be a green tote outside the main doors of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (*under the portico*) for food drop-off from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays**. Please do not drop off expired food or items past their sell-by dates. We are unable to use them.

\* We would appreciate your support of the mission of Prince of Peace so that we can continue worship and other ministries. You can give any amount by mailing a check to us at P.O. Box 535, Eagle River, WI 54521.

### **CURRENT PHASE: 1**

- Fully digital worship and fellowship
- Individually scheduled communion under portico available
- Critical staff and volunteers by invitation-only access to building
- All in-person activities suspended and moved to digital format where possible
- Visitors must wear a facemask and may not enter the building



### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a community who believes in God's love, knows Jesus as Savior, and is blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Thankful for these gifts, we gather to pray and praise, explore God's Word and its meaning for our lives, strengthen each other in our witness, and serve each other and our neighbors in the world.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

Gathered by Grace ~ Sent to serve.  
*Core Values: Spirituality, Community,  
Grace, Helping Others, Creativity.*