

# JUST LOVE

**PSALM 33:5**

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God loves righteousness and justice;  
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church  
Sunday, August 22, 2021

5300 10th Avenue South · Minneapolis, MN 55417 · 612-825-6846 · [nokomisheights.org](http://nokomisheights.org)  
a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Nokomis Heights is a Reconciling In Christ (RIC) Congregation. We believe the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally, without regard to cultural or ethnic background; race; sexual orientation; gender identity; physical or mental abilities; socio-economic, marital, or family status; gender; or age. We welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, their partners and their families into full participation in the life and ministry of this congregation.*

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastors	Kristen Capel, Steven Delzer
Organist	Julie Urban
Vocalists	Kim Bretheim, Sue Danielson Bretheim, Johan Christopherson, Carolyn Deters, Lexie Townsend, Tim Wicker, Kristin Young
Lector	Laura Morris
Recording/Editing	Dana Lonn

**In our prayers this week:** Casey Austad, Linda Austad, Jerry Casterton, Rich Gronner, Jennifer Harris, Dee Levine, Charlie Olson, and Eric, Jana, Piper, and Katie Roome; Mission Partners: Trinity and St. Peder's Lutheran churches, Community Emergency Service (CES), and Wapo Bible Camp

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**Join us each Sunday at 10 a.m. for worship (online and in person)!**

**Outdoor, in-person worship on the church lawn this summer on the 1st, 3rd, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month (weather permitting).**

**Outdoor, in-person worship at Pearl Park on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month.**

**Online worship continues every Sunday.**

**Find us online on Facebook and YouTube!**

**[www.nokomisheights.org](http://www.nokomisheights.org)**



**NOKOMIS  
HEIGHTS**

Place of Worship. Space for Questions.

# NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 22, 2021

10:00 A.M.

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## GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Prelude in C Major”

J.S. Bach

GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: We enter into worship with humble hearts,  
confessing before God that we are broken  
and in need of God’s mercy and grace.

**C: God of justice and righteousness,  
we admit that we can never live up to,  
never fully live into,  
and barely comprehend the kind of love  
that you have for all creation.**

**As hard as we try,  
we fall short of loving our neighbor as ourselves.  
As much as we talk about longing for justice,  
our whole lives are wrapped up in systems of injustice,  
and we struggle to untangle ourselves.**

**Restore us, O God, along with your whole creation.  
Where we have become numb to this unjust world,  
awaken our senses, that we might be partners with you  
in creating a more just and loving world for all people.**

L: The earth is filled with God’s unfailing love.  
You are restored, forgiven and made new  
through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.  
Live in this promise,  
knowing that love and justice are all around you,  
and are yours to give and receive.

**C: Amen**

OPENING HYMN 824

“This Is My Father’s World”

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all  
 2 This is my Mo-ther's world; the birds their car - ols raise; the  
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for - get that,

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.  
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.  
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of  
 This is my Mo-ther's world; she shines in all that's fair In the  
 This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.  
 rus - tling grass I hear her pass; she speaks to me ev-'ry - where,  
 Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

**GREETING**

**L:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**KYRIE 157**

**Leader**  
In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Assembly**  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have  
For the reign of God, and for  
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the  
Lord. Lord. For your  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

*Continued on next page*

peo- ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your  
word, let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mer- cy. Christ, have mer- cy. Lord, have  
Help, save, and de- fend us, O God.  
mer - cy. A - men.

**SALUTATION**

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: God of justice and love,

C: **you remind us over and over again  
that you are God and we are not.**

**We toil and spin**

**and try to put ourselves at the center of things.**

**And yet, you are the one who spins the earth  
and gives us life and breath.**

**As we worship, may we remember to rest in your love.**

**As we leave this place,**

**may we remember that our whole lives are a gift from you.**

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

## WORD

### THE FIRST READING

**Genesis 2:1-4**

L: Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### THE SECOND READING

**Exodus 20:8-10**

L: Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### THE GOSPEL

**Mark 2:23-28**

L: One sabbath he was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions." Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

*The Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

**SERMON SONG**

**“It Is Well”**

Spafford/DiMarco/Bliss

Grander earth has quaked before,  
moved by the sound of his voice.  
Seas that are shaken and stirred  
can be calmed and broken for my regard.

Through it all, through it all, my eyes are on you.  
Through it all, through it all, it is well.  
Through it all, through it all, my eyes are on you,  
and it is well with me.

Far be it from me to not believe,  
even when my eyes can't see.  
And this mountain that's in front of me  
will be thrown into the midst of the sea.

Through it all, through it all, my eyes are on you.  
Through it all, through it all, it is well.  
Through it all, through it all, my eyes are on you,  
and it is well with me.

So let go my soul and trust in him.  
The waves and wind still know his name.

It is well with my soul,  
it is well with my soul,  
it is well with my soul,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*Introduction*

L: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

L: God of creation, the forests and rivers, animals, seas, and the air we breathe are suffering. Give sabbath, O God, to all creatures great and small, that all parts of your creation might have fullness of life.

God of love,

**C: hear our prayer.**



L: From lives being stolen and disregarded in Afghanistan to the earth quaking in Haiti, leaving thousands displaced and lifeless, the earth groans for your spirit of healing and peace. We cry out to you, O God. At times we wonder if you are present, yet we trust that somehow, your love will make all things new.  
God of love,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: We remember your promise to your people and look to you for justice. Expose pride, greed, and exploitation wherever it is found and raise up humble leaders who act on behalf of those who are poor and oppressed. As we continue to grapple with the effects of systemic racism in our community, turn us toward justice and love. Help us to make difficult choices on behalf of our neighbor.  
God of love,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: We pray for all who cry out to you in their affliction—for exiles, refugees, and others who face long and difficult journeys, uncertain about the future. For all who mourn the death of a loved one, and or all who are sick, *especially... (we pray for members and friends in need of prayer)*.  
God of love,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Conclusion*

L: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as 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**

#### **SHARING THE PEACE**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.      **C: And also with you**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

L: God of perfect summer nights  
and moonbeams on lakes,  
we are grateful for this world  
and all its bounty.  
Along with all creation,  
we give thanks to you  
for providing all that we need for this life.  
Receive the gifts we bring:  
gifts of money,  
gifts of time,  
and gifts of compassion.  
Use them to restore justice  
and spread love throughout the world.

**C: Amen**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

L: The world has waited long enough  
to hear your voice,  
to feel your feet treading with gentle curiosity,  
to see how you embrace each adventure.

God’s world needs you  
and thank God that  
the Spirit will whisper direction  
directly into your heart  
to the places in need of  
and the people who are thirsty for  
love and justice.

Go, child of God,  
into the wild places  
where you will fly and fall and finally  
build brighter days  
singing all the while  
of a holy JUST LOVE.

**C: Amen**

CLOSING HYMN 732

“Borning Cry”



1 “I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I’ll be there when you are old.  
 2 “When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;  
 3 “In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.  
 you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.  
 I’ll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I’ve be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;  
 If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell.”  
 I’ll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.”  
 I’ll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise.”



4 “I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I’ll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.”

SENDING

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

*Moment of silence*

POSTLUDE

“Fugue in G Major”

J.S. Bach

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