

JUST LOVE

PSALM 33:5

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

Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church
Sunday, August 29, 2021

5300 10th Avenue South · Minneapolis, MN 55417 · 612-825-6846 · 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
Guest Preacher	Pastor Marc Olson
Organist	Julie Urban
Instrumentalist	Bernice Yates, flute
Vocalists	Johan Christopherson, Carolyn Deters, Tim Wicker, Kristin Young
Lector	Christine Hurney
Recording/Editing	Dana Lonn

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

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

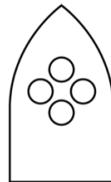
Outdoor, in-person worship on the church lawn this summer on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month (weather permitting).

Outdoor, in-person worship at Pearl Park on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Online worship continues every Sunday.

Find us online on Facebook and YouTube!

www.nokomisheights.org



**NOKOMIS
HEIGHTS**

Place of Worship. Space for Questions.

NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 29, 2021

10:00 A.M.

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Light Dawns on a Weary World" Krentz Organ

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 843

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;

praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
 praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.

calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

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. 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: **So often in this world**

**we experience justice as the trickle of a tiny stream,
when your justice, as the prophet Amos reminds us,
is like a mighty, rolling river.**

**Strengthen your church and its people
that we might work tirelessly for justice
until it becomes a river
that changes the landscape of this world.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

WORD

THE FIRST READING

Amos 5:6-24

L: Seek the Lord and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! The one who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning, and darkens the day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea, and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the Lord is his name, who makes destruction flash out against the strong, so that destruction comes upon the fortress. They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord: In all the squares there shall be wailing; and in all the streets they shall say, "Alas! alas!" They shall call the farmers to mourning, and those skilled in lamentation, to wailing; in all the vineyards there shall be wailing, for I will pass through the midst of you, says the Lord. Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment.

Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner."

Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

"Teacher," he replied, "Speak."

"A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?"

Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt."

And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly."

Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON HYMN 717

“Let Justice Flow like Streams”

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Let Justice Flow like Streams". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The first system includes three lines of lyrics. The second system includes three lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with clear note heads and stems.

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: We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have the habitat and resources to thrive and flourish. Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

God of love,

C: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for individuals in positions of authority, for President Biden and Vice President Harris, for Governor Walz, for superintendents, schoolboards, principals, teachers, and all who lead our society through this time of pandemic. Give wisdom and discernment, clarity, and compassion that decisions will be made based on justice and love for our neighbors.

God of love,

C: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for all who are in need. Support and encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life. We pray for the NHLC Habitat for Humanity team as they help build affordable housing this week.

God of love,

C: hear our prayer.

L: We pray for this congregation, especially those beginning a new school year. Empower teachers and school administrators. Guide students in their learning and development. Accompany parents, foster parents, and caregivers who provide encouragement and love.

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: We pray together:

C: **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. 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 583 (st. 1-3)

“Take My Life, That I May Be”



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na - da más;
 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;



to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón y tu tro - no en él ten - drás.
 take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.



1	Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té	con - sa - gra -
1	Take my hands and let them move	at the im -
2	Take my sil - ver and my gold,	not a mite
3	Take my voice and let me sing	al - ways, on -
4	Take my will and make it thine;	it shall be



da a ti,	Se - ñor;	que a mis ma - nos pue -
pulse of	thy love;	take my feet and let
would I	with - hold;	take my in - tel - lect
ly for	my King;	take my lips and let
no lon - ger	mine;	take my heart, it is



da guiar	el im - pul - so	de tu a - mor.
them be	swift and beau - ti - ful	for thee.
and use	ev - 'ry pow'r	as thou shalt choose.
them be	filled with mes - sag - es	from thee.
thine own;	it shall be thy roy - al	throne.

SENDING

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

C: Thanks be to God!

Moment of silence

POSTLUDE

“Lord Whose Love in Humble Service”

Albrecht

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NOKOMIS
HEIGHTS

Place of Worship. Space for Questions.