

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, September 5, 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
Organist	Julie Urban
Instrumentalists	Kim Bretheim, cello; Kris Capel, piano; Christine Hurney, recorder; Daniel Magnuson, guitar
Vocalists	Johan Christopherson, Annika Coyle, Carolyn Deters, John Holtze, Maddie Holtze, Juliette White, Tim Wicker, Kristin Denison Young
Lector	Marian Blattner
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

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

10:00 A.M.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Seek Ye First”

Albrecht

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 677

“This Little Light of Mine”

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
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: **You remind us through an interaction**

between a widow and a prophet

that simple kindness can change lives

and lead to a more just and loving world.

The life that Jesus lived ushered in a new reign of kindness

that we long to continue as Jesus' followers.

Fill us, O God, with wild kindness,

that all people might experience your love through our lives.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

WORD

THE FIRST READING

1 Kings 17:1-16

L: Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word." The word of the LORD came to him, saying, "Go from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. You shall drink from the wadi, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." So he went and did according to the word of the LORD; he went and lived by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the wadi. But after a while the wadi dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth." She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 5:38-48

L: "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun

rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

SERMON SONG

“For the One”

Johnson/McClure

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Introduction

L: Made children and heirs of God’s promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: Holy God, in your kindness and generosity, you provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world, especially as we celebrate this Labor Day. Unite us in acts of love and kindness toward all our neighbors.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, especially those seeking refuge from Afghanistan. Protect any who are in danger, especially those whose lives have been impacted by hurricanes and earthquakes in Louisiana, Haiti, the Northeast, and around the globe.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Give comfort to the dying, and draw near those who are in times of trouble. Place your healing hand on all who are sick in body, mind, or spirit. We pray especially today for... *(we pray for members and friends in need of prayer).*

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Conclusion

L: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

SHARING THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you

MEAL

OFFERING HYMN 465

“As the Grains of Wheat”

Haugen

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast 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**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: You gather all to your table, even when we keep some out.
You welcome all to your supper, even when we limit the guest list.
Your grace and mercy are enough for all;
now let us come at our Savior's invitation.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

“Lamb of God”

Haugen

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 you break the chains of ha - tred and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:

world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
 fear:
 peace:
 love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Lord of life,
 in the gift of your body and blood
 you turned the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
 Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
 bearing witness to the abundance of your love
 in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 674

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

SENDING

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

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Moment of silence

POSTLUDE

“You are the Seed”

arr. Albrecht

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NOKOMIS
HEIGHTS

Place of Worship. Space for Questions.