

Welcome to Worship at  
***Joyful Harvest Church***  
Growing Together for Christ  
*Rev. Dr. Douglas Liston, Pastor – 847-497-4JOY (4569)*  
*5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051*  
*www.joyfulharvest.org*



**September 12, 2021**

**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

This week we will be worshipping both in-person (socially-distanced, masked not required if fully vaccinated) and on-line through Zoom and Facebook. There will be a link on our website to watch on Zoom, or you can watch the live-stream on Facebook! Stay safe and God bless!

## Gathering

### Welcome/Greeting/Announcements

#### Call to Worship

We have gathered in God's holy presence, the One who etches grace on our hearts.

**This is the place where God will transform us into disciples.**

We glorify our God, who yearns for justice, not just for a favored few, but for the least of our world.

**This is the place where God will write compassion on our souls.**

We give thanks to God for unceasing grace; we remember God's persistence in saving us.

**This is the place where God will breathe the Word into our lives.**

#### Gathering Songs

#### Thanksgiving for Baptism

#### Prayer of the Day

### Word

#### FIRST READING: Philippians 4:1-7 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. <sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. <sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

#### Responsive Reading: Psalm 145:14-21 (NRSV)

<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

<sup>15</sup>**The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.**

<sup>16</sup>You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

<sup>17</sup>**The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.**

<sup>18</sup>The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

<sup>19</sup>**He fulfills the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them.**

<sup>20</sup>The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

<sup>21</sup>**My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 8:24-35 (NRSV)**

<sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. <sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. <sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

## **GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8 (NRSV)**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup>He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup>In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' <sup>4</sup>For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

This is the gospel of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

## **Message**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

## **Meal**

## **Offering/Offering Song**

*Friends, while our programs and in-person worship are temporarily modified, our responsibilities for our regular bills (mortgage, utilities, payroll, etc.) continue. Please send your gifts to the church office: 5050 N. Johnsburg Rd., Johnsburg, IL 60051 or you may give online at [www.joyfulharvest.org](http://www.joyfulharvest.org).*

## Call to Reconciliation

Seeking to follow Jesus, we often wander down the wrong roads. Impatient with God's schedule, we rush off to do things our way. Let us confess our foolishness, that we might receive God's hope for our lives.

**Your words are given to us, Author of Life, so we might be reformed, but we are intent on changing others. Your words are offered to us so we might be transformed, but we are focused on conforming to our culture. Your words are spoken to lead us into new life, but we hold our old ways tight to our chests. Forgive us, God of Wonder. Do not remember our sins, but continue to touch us with your steadfast mercy. Show us how to be persistent in living out our faith, even as you were so tenacious in offering us your grace and life in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

*Silence is kept...*

Jesus reminds us that we are to be resolute in our lives of faithfulness and service. The good news is that God is steadfast in filling us with love and grace.

**We are forgiven people. May we live as sisters and brothers in Christ, God's children in word and deed, in hope and joy. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Lord's Supper

### Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer

**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**

## Communion Song

### Sending

#### Sending Song

### Sending and Benediction

Here in this place, God transforms us into disciples,  
**so we may share the grace etched upon our hearts.**

Here with these people, compassion is written on our hearts,  
**so we may join Jesus in bringing justice to all.**

Now, in these moments, the Spirit is breathed into us,  
**so we can be as persistent as God in bringing hope to the world.**

## Commissioning

At Joyful Harvest Church, **our mission is growing together for Christ.**  
As disciples of Jesus Christ, we value: **Family Worship, Relying on Prayer, Unity in Christ, Instruction in the Word, Telling Others, and Service to God's Community.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

## Announcements

**Operation Christmas Child** – With such a late start due to the COVID pandemic, we will be sending a financial contribution to OCC this year in the same way we did last year. If you'd like to donate, please mark OCC on the memo line of your check. Blessings!

**Donate for Tijuana Mission Project!** - Toys and school supplies! When our volunteers go to Tijuana this year, they would like to take some items that the kids can use. *If you should see a backpack on sale for the kids, we can fill it with school supplies. Soccer balls or footballs can be deflated and taken. Jump ropes, small toys, t-shirts for kids would be good, too.* There is a box in the narthex for donations. *Thanks so much for your generosity.* **See Ray Pratscher or Theresa Ancona for info.**

**Cross Keys Village Stampers:** Cut used postage stamps from the mail you receive at home, bring it to the church and we'll make sure the Cross Keys folks receive them!

**Pollinator Pockets** - Do your part to save the pollinators - the bees, butterflies, moths, and other insects critical to our food supply and human survival. *Help Joyful Harvest plant a "pocket" of flowers that attract and nurture pollinators.* You may not realize that manicured lawns, exotic plantings, and enticing hybrids and cultivars often provide no value to pollinators. By placing pollinator pockets into your landscape, you provide an oasis for pollinators. Now that's sweet! *No experience needed!!*



**Men's Group:** We meet on **Saturday mornings @ 7 a.m.** at the church for fellowship and learning more about God's call on our lives. All men are invited to attend.

**St. Jude Children's Ranch:** **We are collecting greeting cards!** Please bring in the whole card Juanita will separate the front from the back. Save your used holiday and all-occasion cards, bring them to the church, and we'll ship them off to St. Jude's!

**Remember – For your online shopping, visit [Joyfulharvest.org](http://Joyfulharvest.org) and click on Saving with Susan! It helps support our ministries at Joyful Harvest!**

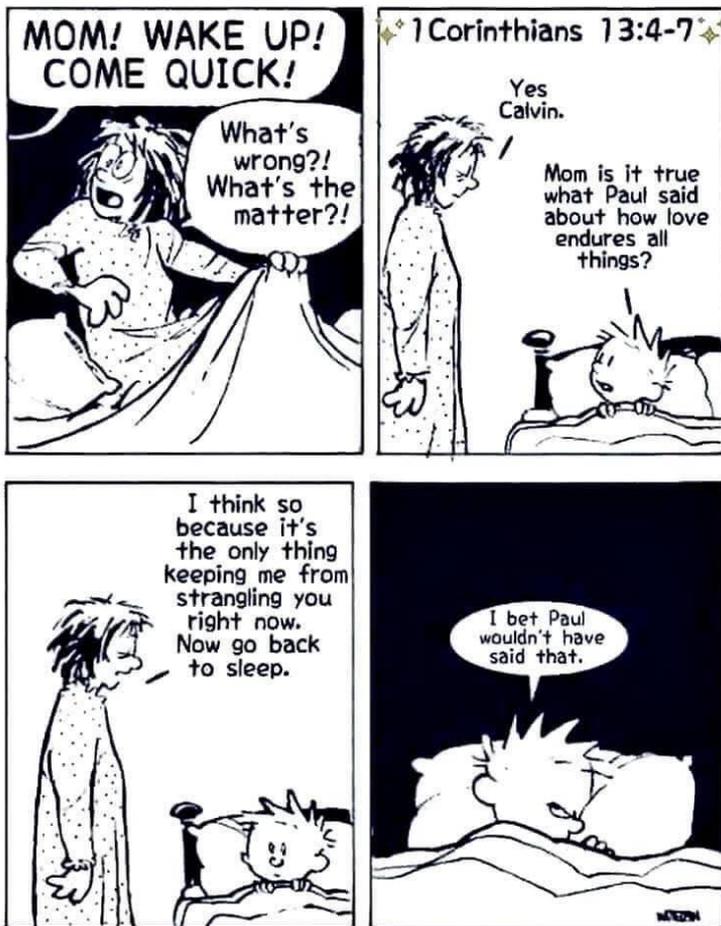
**Donate to help the ministries of Joyful Harvest!** Scan the QR code on the left with your mobile device. You'll go straight to our online giving page to set up a one-time or recurring gift through your debit/credit card processed through PayPal. Your generous gift will support our many outreach ministries. ***Thank you for making so much possible!***



**Weekly Calendar**

Sun. Sep 12	<b>Sunday Worship <u>Live-Streaming and In-Person</u></b>	9:00 a.m.
Tue. Sep 14	<b>Food Pantry Service Opportunity</b>	3:00-6:30 p.m.
Wed. Sep 15	<b>Versiti Blood Drive</b>	2:00-6:00 p.m.
Thur. Sep 16	<b>Food Pantry Service Opportunity</b>	3:00-6:30 p.m.
Sat. Sep 18	<b>Men's Group – <u>Live-Streaming and In-Person</u></b>	7:00 a.m.
Sun. Sep. 19	<b>Sunday Worship <u>Live-Streaming and In-Person</u></b>	9:00 a.m.

Thank you, Glen Stevens,  
for leading us in worship again this week!



**SEPTEMBER 12, 2021  
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST**



*Take up your cross and follow.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 8:27-38</b>	<b>Taking up the cross</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Isaiah 50:4-9a</b>	<b>God's servant must suffer</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>James 3:1-12</b>	<b>Controlling the tongue</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Philippians 3:7-16</b>	<b>Running towards the goal</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Hebrews 12:1-13</b>	<b>The example of Jesus</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1 Peter 5:6-11</b>	<b>God will restore those suffering</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 116:1-9</b>	<b>A prayer of thanksgiving</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 9:30-37</b>	<b>The servant of all is greatest</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

He [Jesus] called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." **Mark 8:34 (NRSV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord Jesus Christ, give us strength, courage, and faith to take up our cross and follow you. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, as we chew and as we swallow, make us strong to love and follow. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God's goodness give you peace in your heart and in your mind. May the Lord protect you with kindness. (Psalm 116:5-7)



## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Talk about a tough time in your life.
- How have you been challenged to grow through your tough times?
- In Mark 8:27-38, Peter rejected Jesus' acceptance of his innocent suffering and death. How are we tempted to reject suffering—the way of the cross—the way of salvation and new life?

## DEVOTIONS



Read: Psalm 116:1-9.

This is a psalm of thanksgiving that acknowledges personal suffering (v. 3), a prayer for help (v. 4), God's response (vv. 1-2, 5-8), and the psalmist's response of thanksgiving and faithfulness (vv. 1, 9). A psalm or prayer of thanksgiving is a living testimony to the goodness of God in the midst of difficult times. It is a way to tell good news to others as well as remember God's goodness the next time one goes through tough times. Think of a difficult time you have gone through and how God's grace and mercy got you through it. Write it as a prayer that acknowledges the personal suffering, how God was present to you, and how you declare your response of thanksgiving and trust in God. Conclude this prayer by reciting, "I love the Lord" (v. 1a).

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

## SERVICE



In James 3:1-12 it highlights that what we say can offer words of encouragement or words that destroy others. A whole commandment is dedicated to not bearing false witness against another person. This week pause and reflect before saying anything that could be perceived as harmful to another person. When speaking of others, make it a point "to come to their defense, speak well of them and interpret everything they do in the best possible light" (Martin Luther's meaning for the Eighth Commandment).

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In Mark 8:27-38 the life of the cross of Christ is not easy and, according to Peter, not even wanted. But according to Jesus it is the way of salvation. Write down on slips of paper how God may be calling you to take up your cross and follow Jesus. Perhaps it is to reach out to others in their distress. Maybe it is to forgive someone you would rather not forgive. Consider including some difficulty you are experiencing and how you may find new life and meaning through it. Stick the slips of paper on a cross you have in your home or on one you make. Look at what you wrote each day this next week and say aloud: **"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."**



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**Join us for worship: Sundays 9 am!**