**Worship Bulletin for October 31, 2021**

**Welcome and Announcements ~** Jim Holden

Thursday ~ Interfaith Council Meeting at noon, and

Choir Practice at 7 pm in the vestry.

Saturday ~ Potluck supper at the church at 5:30 pm with a showing

of *The Chosen* episode 3 at 6:15 pm.

The Interfaith Council is preparing to have an online auction from

Nov. 29th to Dec. 9th, and would appreciate donations of new or homemade items or gift certificates. If you would like to make a donation to benefit the IFC Emergency Needs Fund, please call Lori Hong (609-709-0496).

We have already received donations to cover the shipping of 8 of the

12 Operation Christmas Child Boxes. The labels have also arrived and are available in the vestry. We will plan to have the boxes ready to go to the drop off site by Nov. 14th.

Happy Birthday to Jerry Pike on Friday!

The flowers today are from Glenna and Russ Taxter in honor of

 our First Responders.

**Honoring First Responders ~** Pastor Rebecca Sommons

 Verses from Psalm 22 (TPT)

**Word of Preparation** ~ Jim Holden

**Prelude ~** Barb West will play ***“’Tis the Gift to Be Simple”* (# 568)**

Everyone is welcome to sing along or simply listen

as we prepare our hearts for worship.

*‘Tis the gift to be simple, ‘tis the gift to be free*

*‘Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be*

*And when we find ourselves in the place just right*

*‘twill be in the valley of love and delight*

*When true simplicity is gained*

*To bow and to bend we shan’t be ashamed*

*To turn, turn, will be our delight*

*Till by turning, turning we come round right*

Shaker Song from the 18th Century arranged by Margaret W. Mealy, 1984

**Call to Worship ~ Psalm 15 (TPT)**

 (Please join in reading the bold lines.)

Lord, who dares to dwell with you?

**Who presumes the privilege of being close to you,**

**living next to you in your shining place of glory?**

Who are those who daily dwell in the life of the Holy Spirit?

**They are passionate and whole-hearted,**

**always sincere and always speaking the truth –**

**for their hearts are trustworthy**

They refuse to slander or insult others;

they’ll never listen to gossip or rumors,

**nor would they ever harm another with their words.**

They will speak out passionately against evil and evil workers,

**while commending the faithful ones who follow after the truth.**

They make firm commitments

and follow through even at great cost.

**They never crush others with exploitation or abuse**

and they would never be bought with a bribe against the innocent.

**They will never be shaken; they will stand firm forever.**

**Choir Song ~ *“Family of Faith”***

**Praying Together ~**

**Space for Requests**

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 debts as we forgive our debtors

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

**Songs ~** The Worship team will lead us in singing two songs.

***The Power of Your Love***

*Lord I come to You
Let my heart be changed renewed
Flowing from the grace
That I found in You
And Lord I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away
By the power of Your love*

***Chorus***

***Hold me close.***

 ***Let Your love surround me
Bring me near.***

***Draw me to Your side
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You.
Your Spirit leads me on, in the power of Your love***

*Lord unveil my eyes
Let me see You face to face
The knowledge of Your love
As You live in me
Lord renew my mind
As Your will unfolds in my life
In living every day
By the power of Your love*

***Chorus***

CCLI Song # 917491 Geoff Bullock

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***“Open the Eyes of My Heart”***

***Chorus***

***Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You***

*To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy*

***Repeat chorus and verse***

*Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
I want to see You*

CCLI Song # 2298355 Paul Baloche

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**Introducing the Sermon ~** Pastor Rebecca Sommons

**Scripture Text ~ James 4:1-17** read by Jim Holden

1 What is the cause of your conflicts and quarrels with each other? Doesn’t the battle begin inside of you

as you fight to have your own way and fulfill your own desires?

**2**You jealously want what others have

so you begin to see yourself as better than others.

You scheme with envy and harm others

to selfishly obtain what you crave—that’s why you quarrel and fight. And all the time you don’t obtain what you want

because you won’t ask God for it!

**3**And if you ask, you won’t receive it

for you’re asking with corrupt motives,

seeking only to fulfill your own selfish desires.

**4**You have become spiritual adulterers who are having an affair,

an unholy relationship with the world.

Don’t you know that flirting with the world’s values

places you at odds with God?

Whoever chooses to be the world’s friend

makes himself God’s enemy!

**5**Does the Scripture mean nothing to you that says,

“The Spirit that God breathed into our hearts is a jealous Lover

 who intensely desires to have more and more of us”?

**6**But he continues to pour out more and more grace upon us.

For it says,

“God resists you when you are proud
    but continually pours out grace when you are humble.”

**7**So then, surrender to God.

Stand up to the devil and resist him and he will flee in agony.

 **8**Move your heart closer and closer to God,

and he will come even closer to you.

 But make sure you cleanse your life, you sinners,

and keep your heart pure and stop doubting.

 **9**Feel the pain of your sin, be sorrowful and weep!

Let your joking around be turned into mourning

and your joy into deep humiliation.

**10**Be willing to be made low before the Lord and he will exalt you!

**11**Dear friends, as part of God’s family,

 never speak against another family member,

for when you slander a brother or sister

you violateGod’s law of love.

And your duty is not to make yourself a judge of the law of love

by saying that it doesn’t apply to you,

 but your duty is to obey it!

**12**There is only one true Lawgiver and Judge,

 the One who has the power to save and destroy—

so who do you think you are to judge your neighbor?

**13**Listen, those of you who are boasting,

“Today or tomorrow we’ll go to another city and spend some time

and go into business and make heaps of profit!”

**14**But you don’t have a clue what tomorrow may bring.

For your fleeting life is but a warm breath of air

that is visible in the cold only for a moment and then vanishes!

**15**Instead you should say,

“Our tomorrows are in the Lord’s hands

and if he is willing, we will live life to its fullest and do this or that.”

**16**But here you are, boasting in your ignorance,

for to be presumptuous about what you’ll do tomorrow is evil!

**17**So if you know of an opportunity to do the right thing today,

yet you refrain from doing it, you’re guilty of sin.

**Sermon ~** Pastor Rebecca Sommons  **~ “Living Close to God”**

**Space for notes ~**

**Song ~ *“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”* (#557 in the blue hymnal)**

*I am weak but Thou art strong
Jesus, keep me from all wrong
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee*

***Chorus***

***Just a closer walk with thee
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be***

*Through this world of toil and snares
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee*

*When my feeble life is o'er
Time for me will be no more
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy shore, dear Lord, to Thy shore*

Words and Music Anonymous

**Benediction ~** based on **John 15:9-12 (NLT)**

May you always remember that Jesus loves you,

even as the Father loves Him.

May you remain in His love, obeying His commandments,

 so that you will be filled to overflowing with Christ’s joy.

 His great commandment is to love each other

in the same way Jesus has loved you.

**Fellowship Time ~**