

Better Together
“A Listening Flock”

September 12, 2021

As We Gather

The worship series “Better Together” focuses on what it means to be a congregation. We are looking at the Biblical metaphors and images for the local Church, and seeking to apply these truths to our lives, both individually and as a congregation. Along the way, we are inviting your participation in activities and events designed to bring us together as a Church, so that we can rediscover the Biblical truth that as the people of God, we are “better together.”

Today we consider the image of the Church as the flock of the Good Shepherd. Jesus teaches that His sheep hear their shepherd’s voice and follow Him. We are a listening flock, listening to the Shepherd’s voice. We hear the Shepherd’s voice as He speaks to us in His Word. So today’s focus is on being in the Word, and especially being in the Word together (Bible Classes, Small Groups, etc.) May the Holy Spirit bless us with ears attentive to our Shepherd’s voice!

Welcome

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (LSB 700)

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit;
Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

4 Finish then Thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Invocation

Baptism of Madeleine Bresee

“Come Thou Fount”

“Come, Thou Fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love

Here I raise mine Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;

He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood;

Oh to grace how great a debtor,
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, Oh take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above
Here's my heart, Oh take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above

Prayer

Readings

First Reading: Psalm 119:9-16

How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart;

do not let me stray from your commands.

¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.

¹² Praise be to you, LORD;
teach me your decrees.

¹³ With my lips I recount
all the laws that come from your mouth.

¹⁴ I rejoice in following your statutes
as one rejoices in great riches.

¹⁵ I meditate on your precepts
and consider your ways.

¹⁶ I delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect your word.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Holy Gospel: John 10:1-5

"Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to You O Christ

Children's Message

Sermon

Musical Offering

"Let All the People Praise Thee"

by Natalie Sleeth
Sanctuary Choir

Offering

Installation of the Board of Directors

Prayers

Please add your prayer requests to the chat

Thanksgivings

Pastor: O Lord, we praise You.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Petitions

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Blessing

St. John's People and Families to Pray for This Week

Andrew, Erika & Orion Boudreaux, Elora Stepp
Dan, Angela, Clayton, & Nico D'Angelo
Tom, Elaine, & Samuel Hoff
David & Rebecca Newman
Pastor Ted, Elaine, & Stacie Zimmerman
Logan, Laura, & Ryker Bain
Mark, Debra, & Riley Dommen
J.C., Natalie, Andrew, & Grant Greenberg
Scott, Dianna, & Griffin Messenger
Jae, Amber, & Emma Steward

"Reckless Love"

Before I spoke a word You were singing
over me

You have been so so good to me

Before I took a breath You breathed Your
life in me

You have been so so kind to me

Chorus

(And) O the overwhelming never-ending
reckless

Love of God

O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found

Leaves the ninety-nine

I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it

Still You give Yourself away

O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God yeah

When I was Your foe still Your love fought for me
You have been so so good to me

When I felt no worth You paid it all for me
You have been so so kind to me

There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up

Coming after me

There's no wall You won't kick down

Lie You won't tear down

Coming after me

Offering

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

You may also mail your offering to St. John's (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

Memory Verse for This Week

The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

John 10:3



How can we be better together this week?

1. Pray for the growth of small groups and Bible studies among the people of St. John's.
2. If you are not already doing so, spend time in the Word each day this week.
3. Pray for God's guidance on joining a small group or Bible study.

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Readers	Paula Schweiger, Jerry Schweiger
Sound Technician	Bill Clark
Streaming Technician	Martin Meissenhalter, Joshua Wright, Joel Wahlers
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz
Ushers	Gary & Marlen Virkus
Projection Technicians	Bob Klein
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Musicians	Steve & Judi Rock, Thane Knutson, Neill Barker, Chris Newman

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