



**ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**PENTECOST – PART 3 (CHURCH - ROOTED)**  
**ACTS 2:42-47**  
**02-21-21**

**All = bold sections – read together**

Leader = regular font – leader reads (choose or rotate leaders)

*Sung together = italics*

NOTE: Please have a white candle ready to light.

**Reflect** – Affirmation #5

Because **the formation of authentic Biblical community is the intricate, patient work of the Holy Spirit**, when interpersonal problems arise (and they always do) we will navigate those with love. We will not be satisfied with just another club or social group meeting. We will work to develop the deep, life giving community that is only available through the giving of ourselves to each other through the Holy Spirit.

**Welcome**

Boker Tov! (Good Morning in Hebrew) Welcome to worship!

**May the love and joy of the Father, the grace and peace of the Son and the courage and comfort of the Holy Spirit be ours in abundance today!**

**Call to Worship** – Psalm 47 -- TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF THE SONS OF KORAH

Our call to worship and first song highlights God as King and the earth as his kingdom. In response to this, we are to be in awe of God and to sing praises to him. May we relate to God as our King and we as his loyal and faithful subjects who love their King and desire to make much of him; to delight in him and to praise him with song!

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Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

**For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.**

He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

**God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

**God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.**

The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!

**Song** – Behold Our God -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gqrli3Lkf58>

*Who has held the oceans in his hands?*

*Who has numbered every grain of sand?*

*Kings and nations tremble at his voice*

*All creation rises to rejoice*



*Behold our God, seated on his throne  
Come, let us adore him  
Behold our king, nothing can compare  
Come, let us adore him*

*Who has given counsel to the Lord?  
Who can question any of his words?  
Who can teach, the one who knows all things?  
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?*

*Behold our God, seated on his throne  
Come, let us adore him  
Behold our king, nothing can compare  
Come, let us adore him*

*Who has felt the nails upon his hands?  
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man  
God eternal, humbled to the grave  
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign*

*Behold our God, seated on his throne  
Come, let us adore him  
Behold our king, nothing can compare  
Come, let us adore him*

*You will reign forever (let Your glory fill the Earth)  
You will reign forever (let Your glory fill the Earth)  
You will reign forever (let Your glory fill the Earth)  
You will reign forever (let Your glory fill the Earth)*

*Behold our God, seated on his throne  
Come, let us adore him  
Behold our king, nothing can compare  
Come, let us adore him*

### **Christ Candle** – Mali

We light the Christ candle as a visible sign of God’s presence with us; that he has come as light into a world of darkness. We light the Christ candle to remind ourselves that Jesus is the light and that in him we become light too. We are never a light on our own. The light we have and can offer to others is the light of Jesus of Nazareth. May we be God’s light in 2021.

Jesus of Nazareth said that to be a Christian means to be maltreated for his name’s sake (Matthew 5:11) and the apostle Paul said that “everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12). Mistreatment as a disciple of Jesus is not a matter of *if* but a matter of *when* and a matter of *degree*. Hope is a vital aspect of being a disciple of Jesus. This is especially true under heavy persecution. In America, the land of religious freedom, we have it pretty easy in that there is minimal outright persecution against Christians. **May we make the most of our religious freedom to honor Christ and give credible and coherent witness to him! At the same time, may we be aware of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who don’t share the same freedom that we do.**



**The 29th place that is most challenging to be a disciple of Jesus Christ is Mali.**

Of the 19.6 million people who live in Mali, about 460,000 are Christians. Last year, northern Mali saw a rise in violent incidents, including attacks and kidnappings. While the majority of Malians traditionally practice a relatively tolerant version of Islam, increasing radicalization continues to pressure and physically harm the lives of Christians and their churches. This radicalization has led to intensifying violence against Christians from jihadist groups, such as Al Qaeda, and from criminal organizations that have allied themselves with radical Islamic groups.

Prayer Points: Fueled by terrorist attacks, violence against Christians in Mali has increased substantially. Pray for peace and protection. Pray for families who have lost loved ones in these attacks and kidnappings – that they would feel God’s presence and know his comfort. Pray with new believers who have left Islam to follow Jesus of Nazareth, for them to grow in their newfound faith and to be encouraged as they follow Jesus Christ.

**Jesus is the Light. We are a light. Shine His light!**

Light the Christ candle at this time

**Song** – Living Hope -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9f2FXxDVO6w>

*How great the chasm that lay between us  
How high the mountain I could not climb  
In desperation, I turned to heaven  
And spoke Your name into the night  
Then through the darkness, Your loving-kindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished, the end is written  
Jesus Christ, my living hope*

*Who could imagine so great a mercy?  
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?  
The God of ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame  
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven  
The King of kings calls me His own  
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever  
Jesus Christ, my living hope*

*Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free  
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There's salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ, my living hope*

*Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free  
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There's salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ, my living hope*



*Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me  
Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me  
Jesus, Yours is the victory, whoa!*

*Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free  
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There's salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ, my living hope*

*Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free  
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There's salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ, my living hope  
Jesus Christ, my living hope*

**Song** – Amazing Grace -- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmq6VDL1\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmq6VDL1_Y)

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now am found  
Was blind but now I see  
Was Grace that taught my heart to fear  
And Grace, my fears relieved  
How precious did that Grace appear  
The hour I first believed  
Through many dangers, toils and snares  
We have already come  
T'was Grace that brought us safe thus far  
And Grace will lead us home  
When we've been there ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun*

**Centering Prayer** – From: Every Moment Holy (Liturgy for the Ritual of Morning Coffee)

**Meet me, O Christ  
in this stillness of morning.  
Move me, O Spirit,**



**to quiet my heart.  
Mend me, O Father,  
from yesterday's harms.**

From the discords of yesterday,  
resurrect my peace.  
From the discouragement of yesterday,  
resurrect my hope.  
From the weariness of yesterday,  
resurrect my strength.  
From the doubts of yesterday,  
resurrect my faith.  
From the wounds of yesterday,  
resurrect my love.

**Let me enter this new day,  
aware of my need  
and awake to your grace,  
O Lord.  
Amen.**

**Offering** – River Rock Church

River Rock CRC in Folsom, California was co-planted by pastors Chuck Dillender and Tim Blackmon in 1998. She has faithfully been making disciples of Jesus for over two decades now. For the past 20 months, they have been searching for a lead pastor and are now deep in the process with a potential candidate. However, financial matters are complicating the process. They have reached out for a one time help and our council unanimously agreed. It was also agreed that part of that help would come from a special offering so others could join in as well. River Rock Church expresses their deep gratitude for Community CRC's generosity and kindness!

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**We remember that giving is an act of faith, a practice of hope and an expression of love.**

(You can give by sending your offering to the church, P.O. Box 217, Oakdale Ca 95361 or consider giving online through your bank. Our deacons can help you with this if necessary.)

**Scripture Reading** – Acts 2:42-47

We continue our series through the New Testament book of Acts called, Acts of the Holy Spirit. We are in the third part of a three-part message on Pentecost from the second chapter of Acts. Two weeks ago, we looked at the three signs God gave of the real presence of the Holy Spirit being given to the apostles and disciples of Jesus of Nazareth. The signs were: (1) a mighty wind, (2) tongues of fire, (3) different speech. Remember we said the first two were not wind or fire, but the Holy Spirit who was like fire and wind. We also saw that the Spirit enabled the disciples to speak in foreign languages so that all that were in Jerusalem for the feast of Weeks (Pentecost) would be able to hear and understand them declare the excellencies of the mighty works of God. Some mocked them saying they were filled with wine and drunk. Luke was saying no (as will Peter in today's message), they were not filled with wine and drunk but they were filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to give witness to God and his



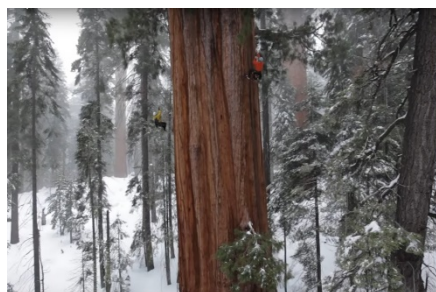
kingdom to all those willing to see and hear and believe.

Last week, we saw that the 120 have now moved out of the room, possibly to the temple courts. There was a very large crowd forming because of the three signs above – particularly the speaking in foreign languages. Thousands were present to hear Peter’s response to the accusation that the people were drunk. Peter’s response is to quote Joel 2 and affirm that they were not filled with wine but filled with the Holy Spirit. This is Peter’s answer to their accusation, and then he proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ where he specifically mentions four things (1) Jesus’ life (2) Jesus’ death (3) Jesus’ resurrection (4) Jesus’ ascension. This is the core of the Good News of Jesus Christ for us and our salvation.

This week we are engaging with the last part of chapter 2 and how the apostles and disciples responded to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the addition of 3,000 new converts to Christianity. Pay attention to the way Luke describes who is doing the actions. Is there an individual or corporate emphasis? Also, reflect on this saying from Dan White Jr. **“Culturally we seem more concerned with *how we want to be recognized by others*” rather than *how do we meaningfully relate with others*”.**

With these in mind, please read Acts 2:42-47 now.

#### **Gospel Message** – Pentecost – Church (Rooted)



California is home to some of the world’s largest trees. Whether you go North, South, East or West of Oakdale, you will discover groves of Giant Sequoias that easily reach heights of over 250 ft. and diameters of over 30 ft and circumferences of greater than 90 ft.!! Do you see the two people – one in yellow and one in orange on the tree? Now, the size and girth of these trees are truly amazing. But what is often overlooked and is equally amazing is how these trees manage to stay upright during high winds and strong storms. How do these massive trees manage to not topple over? You might think that there is a large taproot that sinks deep into the earth to anchor it down. But there is no taproot. The Giant Sequoia’s root system rarely goes below 15 feet! Huh?!? What it does is send out a massive system of roots near the surface that connects with the roots of nearby Giant Sequoias. They interlock to create a massive web of roots that serve to support one another. In effect, the Giant Sequoia has a root system that is more than its own and that serves for support. In other words, the individual tree is connected to the community of trees so that it can survive.

Humanity is this way too. We are not created to live solo. Human beings are social creatures that operate in relationship with others. “We” is stronger than “I”. We are designed to connect with one another to support one another. Individuals disconnected from others can be toppled over more easily by the storms of life. Furthermore, individuals disconnected from others cannot use the gifts and abilities they have to help and support anyone but themselves. Some people are okay with this. They like being on their own, doing their own thing and not being dependent on others for support and well-being. Indeed, this seems to be the American way. Grow up by becoming independent, self-supporting and self-governing. And for sure, there is a healthy aspect to becoming your own individual, of knowing your strengths and weaknesses and making decisions that are your decisions and not others. However, this can be taken to the extreme, to the exclusion of others or in a way that diminishes or minimizes the others importance. Decisions are made by the individual, for the individual without much consideration,



if any at all for the others. In this scenario, some individuals do seem to flourish, at least in the American Dream kind of way but the community suffers. Hoarding, selfishness and competition with others becomes the norm instead of sharing, selflessness and cooperation. It is this last way that we see the disciples acting in this passage in response to being filled with the Holy Spirit. First, as we saw last week, Spirit filled disciples proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and his kingdom to others in winsome, discerning and grace filled but truthful ways. These same Spirit filled people then come together and create a Spirit filled community – they think individually and corporately. And this is seen through the way that Luke describes the five things these 3,000 plus disciples of Jesus do.

The 3,000 plus disciples devotes themselves to five things (1) Apostle’s teaching, (2) fellowship, (3) breaking of bread (communion), (4) prayer and (5) sharing. All of these are described in the plural, not singular. They are activities that they did together and not just individually. The great value of being together is the opportunity for unity. There is strength and power in unity. Division and divisiveness create weakness and fragility. Like the mighty Sequoia, we are meant to be connected in strength to one another in unity with and through the Holy Spirit. In doing so, we grow well, strong and endure and withstand the storms of life – even the worst of them. In not doing so, we grow poorly, weak and do not endure nor withstand the storms of life but topple over, crash down and diminish.

It is no secret that we live in what Charles Taylor calls, “The age of authenticity.” What he means by this is that one, if not the greatest value in our society is for the individual to “be themselves.” You have doubtlessly heard the phrases, “You need to be you, to do you.” “Be true to yourself.” “Don’t let others tell you who you are.” This focus on self at the exclusion of others, is often referred to as an “expressive individualism” where we are supposed to look in and embrace whatever it is that we see to be what we want to be. However, scripture makes it clear that when we look into ourselves apart from Christ Jesus, we see nothing but sin, disobedience, rebellion and deadness. There is nothing there to embrace and nurture towards maturity. Okay – it’s not that bad. Total depravity does not mean completely and totally as bad as we can possibly be. There is God’s common grace that allows some of being created in the image and likeness of God to break through as inherit to our being. However, apart from Christ Jesus, even this will ultimately dishonor God because it leaves him, as the give of all good gifts, out of the picture. So even when unbelievers act in way that are charitable and kind and justice oriented, they do so in a way that outwardly images God but inwardly denies him. So, when we embrace what we feel or think is truly me from the inside apart from God, it is not and it will lead to a selfishness that negates the importance of our corporate identity in Christ as the church.

The 120 apostles and disciples that were there at Pentecost and who proclaimed Christ (exemplified by Peter’s brilliant gospel declaration) were faced with a very large challenge. What do we do with the instantaneous addition of 3,000 people to our little group? How do we handle this? Do we let them go and do what they want? Or do we seek to organize as a community? Spirit filled; they engage the latter. And they do so by focusing, no devoting themselves to five things (not limited to this of course). Devoting has a much more relational and heartfelt aspect to it than simply focusing. It is an all-in kind of posture and attitude. It is a posture and attitude that is fueled by faith that is assured of things hoped for and convinced of things not seen; by a delight and gratitude that exemplifies true repentance and understanding of their newly found baptismal identities. So, what did they “devote” themselves to?

The first and most important was the “apostle’s teaching.” What did the Apostles teach? Simply put –



Jesus of Nazareth. Remember in replacing Judas Iscariot, the requirement was that the person needed to be someone who was with Jesus Christ from the beginning and was an eye witness to what he did and said and particularly to his crucifixion and resurrection so that they could give credible and coherent witness to him. The Apostles taught Christ Jesus and how his story completed and fulfilled the story of Israel. That is, how the Old Testament was actually a story all about God's redemptive plan that was ultimately fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah, the Son of God and the Son of Man, who is now Lord and Christ. They would have taught "all that Jesus had commanded them" (Matthew 28:18-20). Now, the point of this is that the new disciples of Jesus were being grounded and centered with the 120 in Christ Jesus through the Holy Spirit. This is what unified them – the Spirit through the Word. The Word describing and the Spirit inscribing on them their oneness as the new community that would be described by the Apostle Paul as the "body of Christ." The centrality of the gospel of Jesus of Nazareth was spoken on at length last week. Let it suffice today to say that we never leave the gospel. It is as Tim Keller famously said, our "A to Z." The gospel is the lens through which we see and know God and ourselves and others. It is a continuous reminder that we are far worse than we know and far more loved than we can imagine. So cheer up!!

They also practiced "*koinia*." This word is only used here by Luke in his dual volume to Theophilus. However, the theme is common. It means a participation or sharing in common of something with someone else – like eating, praying, learning and sharing. To be a partner with someone on a project or a member of a team or an associate with someone is to experience *koinia*. It is an active word that connects one person to another or others. It is a word that describes the way the roots of the Giant Sequoias interact and participate with one another, partnering with each other to support one another. It is more than fellowship. In fact, fellowship is one of the many outcomes of *koinia*. Ultimately, the Apostle John uses this word to describe not only our relationship with one another, but also with God the Father and God the Son (implied through God the Holy Spirit) – "...that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ." As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are connected to one another because we are all connected in God. There are no solo disciples of Jesus Christ. Being a disciple of Jesus of Nazareth means, by definition to be actively involved in the community of believers called the church. This is not optional – it is essential. What we do on Sunday morning each week and during the week in small groups and one-on-one meetings is absolutely vital to being a healthy, flourishing church of Jesus Christ. Showing up when we want to does not cut it. Of course, in these Covid conditions, there are exceptions – but only temporarily.

Third, they "broke bread" together. This is code for partaking in the Lord's Supper. The Word of God proclaimed and taught by the apostles was wedded together with the participation in Communion. This sacrament (an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible reality and a means of grace) was instituted by Jesus of Nazareth to be a regular part of being together in *koinia*. In fact, participation in the Lord's Supper was an expression of *koinia* and an act that helped bond them together in Christ through the Holy Spirit. Throughout the history of the Church, preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and Communion went hand-in-hand. They complimented and augmented one another. In fact, John Calvin and others said it was unorthodox to have one without the other. This is one of the more fundamental reasons why we practice the Eucharist on a weekly basis. Now, in those days, the Eucharist was not engaged with a little piece of bread and a tiny cup of wine. No, it was generally





engaged with over a meal – supper. Much like Jesus instituted it by co-opting the Passover meal into a meal in which he was the Passover lamb that was slaughtered so that the first-born sons would live. A meal. The Lord’s Supper was not an 8 minute experience but over an hour and it was not in tiny proportions but in large. May our experience of the Lord’s Supper be not diminished by these short-comings. May we be aware of and expectant of this bountiful means of grace.

Fourth, they practiced prayer. As we noted a few weeks ago, the teaching of God’s Word and prayer go hand-in-hand as well. When we read the Bible, we are reading God’s word to us (not just me -there’s that nasty hyper-individualism again) and then we respond back to God, again, not just as individuals but as a community of believers. We have a terribly hard time with this. We filter almost everything through individualist eyes. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 -- “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.” I am willing to bet (unless you are picking up on the theme here) that nearly everyone who just read that understood it to be about them, that “I” am the temple and “I” am holy. Right? Does it not say directly that “you are that temple?” Yes, it does. The problem is that the word “you” is not singular but plural and that changes everything! It is not talking about individuals at all but the community of believers at Corinth, that is, the church. The church is the temple of the Holy Spirit and his dwelling place today. It is the church that is holy and not to destroy it or God will destroy them! Quite the different interpretation. This goes to show how automatically we assume the individual over the communal – how pervasive individualism is. We must fight and train and work at our corporate connections with one another as the church of which we are all members of. May our prayers be more than individual but communal – thinking of the needs of the other.

Fifth, they showed generosity. To be in koinia with one another through the Holy Spirit means to be generous towards one another. They did so by selling what they owned to help out others in need. That is, people were more important than possessions. Now, this text is not teaching Communism or Socialism. The church is not the Borg from Star Trek – “You will be assimilated. Resistance is futile.” They still met in individual, privately owned homes and did not give everything to the ownership of the church. It is teaching generosity. People voluntarily sold stuff they owned in order to help out those in need so that no one was in need in their community. That is what it means to support one another, to be rooted together with one another in koinia. Would you be willing to sell a car (or give it) to someone in need if you had an extra? Or an acre of land? I have no doubt this congregation would do so in a heartbeat. I have seen and experienced the generous hearts of the people of CCRC. No one is in need here. When one suffered, all suffered so the need was felt and attended to. When a church is made up of a bunch of individuals who are not in koinia with one another, not rooted together in the Holy Spirit, this generosity is scarce and sporadic. The point is, we need each other. We --- need --- you. You --- need --- us. In order for this church to continue to grow strong, like a mighty Sequoia, we must be interconnected with one another, interdependent on one another in Christ and through the Holy Spirit as we learn and pray and participate in communion and eat meals and share with one another for the common good and not just the individual good. We do this without degenerating into socialism nor a private, individual self-help club.

Our affirmation the past three weeks as we have navigated this important passage on Pentecost is affirmation #5 that says **“the formation of authentic Biblical community is the intricate, patient work of the Holy Spirit.** We are far more than a club. We are a group of people called together by God and



held together in unity by the Holy Spirit as we give ourselves to the Holy Spirit and each other to form us together as the body of Christ to give witness to him and his kingdom. What this means is that when difficulties arise between people, they will be handled through the Spirit of love that seeks to build each other up in unity around Jesus Christ and his good news; where we are quick to see the log in our own eyes, quick to listen, quick to seek forgiveness and to offer forgiveness, quick to see the other as better than ourselves, quick to do what is needed to keep the unity of peace in Christ. In many ways, this is about keeping the main thing the main thing and not getting distracted or sidetracked by individualist, personal and selfish things that we might be over-identifying with because we have lost our sense of corporate identity as new creations in Christ, as his beloved children and as servants of his; to his ways, his truth and his life. CCRC is not identified in any other way than to the biblical Jesus of Nazareth. And the expression of this identity, the practices are: learning together, praying together, partaking in communion together, being generous together and being together for one another as we are for Jesus Christ. May this church continue to grow into the mighty Giant Sequoia she is designed to be. She is well on her way. Let us continue this great work for the glory of God and for our joy as his disciples in this part of the world at this particular time in history as we play our important part as participants in God's unfolding divine drama.

### **Communion Meditation**

*Professing:* (Apostles Creed)

**We believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**Born of the virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**Was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose and ascended to heaven**

**Where he is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,**

**The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

*Proclaiming:* 1 Corinthians 11:23b-25 (Paraphrased)

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it saying, "this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After the meal he took the cup of wine and pouring it out said, "this wine is my blood, a new covenant of grace poured out for the forgiveness of sins."

**Remember and believe that the body & blood of Jesus was given & shed for the forgiveness of sins.**

**Song** – Great Is Thy Faithfulness -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k1WhFtVp0o>

*Great is Thy faithfulness*

*O God my Father*

*There is no shadow of turning with Thee*

*Thou changest not*

*Thy compassions they fail not*

*As Thou hast been*

*Thou forever will be*



*Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me  
Summer and winter and  
Springtime and harvest  
Sun, moon and stars  
In their courses above  
Join with all nature  
In manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness  
Mercy and love  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me  
Pardon for sin  
And a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer  
And to guide  
Strength for today  
and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness,  
Lord unto me*

### **Sending as Disciples of Jesus**

We is more than I. We are more than I. May we know and value and appreciate our corporate identity, our baptismal identity as members of the church, the body of Christ and may we find generous support and give generous support as we become more deeply rooted in Christ and with one another so that our witness might be clearly and coherently and credibly visible – like a mighty, Giant Sequoia!

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**We are sent out by God into the world as his witnesses. As we go, may we know with our minds and believe with our hearts and confess with our mouths the gospel of Jesus Christ and his kingdom. And may we live in a manner worthy of that Good News at work, at home, at school and in our neighborhood to the glory of God and through the person and power of the Holy Spirit.**