

**September 20, 2020**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Chapel in the Woods**

**Preludes**

**Stars of the Morning**  
**Breathe on Me, Breath of God**

Dennis Eliot  
David Gale

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

L: Come, with thanks and praise, for the God of every blessing calls us to worship.

**P: We come, with trust that God is faithful.**

L: Come, with your whole self, to meet the God who longs for relationship.

**P: Let us seek to be faithful in our worship and in our lives.**

**Musical Introit #177 – I Will Come to You v. 1 & 2**

You Are Mine

(verse one)

I will come to you in the silence; I will lift you from all your fear.  
You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice. Be still and know I am here.

(verse two)

I am hope for all who are hopeless; I am eyes for all who long to see.  
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in me.

(refrain)

Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.

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**Call to Confession**

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

**God who makes and keeps promises, forgive us: for when we are worried that your timing and ours don't seem to match us and we get tired for your promise to come true; for when we box you in to a nice, manageable way of being God and we are uncomfortable with a dynamic, living relationship; for when we have narrowed our understanding of blessing and our vision for your promise is too small; for when we keep faith in our heads rather than living out of trust in you. Forgive us, and open us to the fullness of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Savior:**

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**First Scripture Reading – Psalm 46:1-3, 8-11**

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; <sup>3</sup>though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>8</sup>Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. <sup>9</sup>He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. <sup>10</sup>“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.” <sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**Special Music**

**When You Come Back to Me Again**  
**Soloist: Nancy Sullivan**

Yates & Brooks

**Second Scripture Reading – Genesis 15:1-6**

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”<sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.”<sup>4</sup> But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.”<sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”<sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

**Sermon**

**“Like the Stars in Heaven”**

Rev. John Wahl

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory**

**Children of the Heavenly Father**

Edward Broughton

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light**

Franklin Ritter

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Session will be meeting after church today at noon.
- The Pass-It-On Store will be open next weekend: Friday, September 25, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Saturday, September 26, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.; and after church on Sunday.
- Worship next Sunday, September 27, will be under the front portico and will include a dedication of our new flagpole – Henry Cregar’s Eagle Scout project
- Thank you to everyone who has continued to offer their financial support to the church’s mission and ministry. Please note that we will not be ordering **offering envelopes** for 2021. If you have been using offering envelopes, please retain your box for 2021. If at any time you are in need of additional envelopes, please email the office or call at 440-543-1071 for additional envelopes. Thank you.
- Valley is now able to receive offerings electronically and directly into Valley’s bank account via **Zelle** with no fees charged. Zelle® has partnered with leading banks and credit unions across the U.S. to bring a fast, safe and easy way to send money. Check with your financial institution to see if they offer Zelle.