

Monte Vista Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
3501 Campus Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87106

*Live-streamed to our VistaStream YouTube channel*  
(<https://www.montevista.org/vistastream>)

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

10:30am MT

Order of Worship

Welcome

Rev. Charlotte Hoppe

Prelude

*Arie mit Varianten*  
by Hermann Schroeder

Paulette McClellan

\*Call to Worship

Gregg Rothrock

One: People of God, look about and see the faces of those we know and love —

**Many: neighbors and friends, sisters and brothers — a community of kindred hearts.**

One: People of God, look about and see the faces of those we hardly know —

**Many: strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends, the ones who need an outstretched hand.**

One: People of God, look about and see all the images of God assembled here.

**Many: In me, in you, in each of us, God's spirit shines for all to see.**

One: People of God, come. Let us worship together.

\*Opening Prayer

Gregg

God of the faithful in every time, today you have called us into your church, to be the one body in Jesus Christ. You have bestowed upon us the gifts we need for your service. Grant that we may willingly take our part; that we may support one another; and that we may seek the greatest gift, which is love. Knead us together into one loaf with all your people throughout the world, through your Spirit of unity. Amen.

\*Opening Hymn

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

2

First Scripture Reading

Romans 14:1-12

Gregg

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the

Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your sibling? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

One: A word from God for the people of God. **Many: Thanks be to God.**

Prayer Hymn

*Come and Find the Quiet Center*

575

(Please share your prayer concerns & joys with the office at [office@montevista.org](mailto:office@montevista.org).)

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Charlotte

Lord's Prayer (in unison)

**Blessed One, our Father and our Mother. Holy is your name. May your love be embodied in the world. May your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Protect us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For all that we do in your love, and all that your love brings to birth, and the fullness of love that will be, are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Special Music

*Sweet Harmony*  
by Pepper Choplin

Vista Voices

Sermon Text

Matthew 18:21-35

Rev. Charlotte

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

One: A word from God for the people of God. **Many: Thanks be to God.**



Sermon	<i>“Forgiveness Beyond Counting”</i>	Rev. Charlotte
*Response in Song	<i>Help Us Accept Each Other</i>	487 (vv 1, 3)
Sharing in Communion and Stewardship		
*Invitation to the Table		Anne Loveless
(Your tithes & offerings can be given via online donations on <a href="#">our website</a> , on the <a href="#">Givelify app</a> , or by mailing your check to the church office. Thank you.)		
*Communion Hymn	<i>We Come as Guests Invited</i>	386
Words of Institution		Rev. Charlotte
Prayers for the Elements		Anne
Receiving Communion Together as One Body in Christ		
(Everyone is encouraged to take Communion <u>at the same time</u> as signaled.)		
Prayer of Thanksgiving		Rev. Charlotte
*Closing Hymn	<i>God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing</i>	439
*Benediction		Rev. Charlotte
Postlude	<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i> by Flor Peeters	Paulette

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|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Worship Leader: Gregg Rothrock          | Paulette McClellan, Organist/Pianist        |
| Wally Miller, Sound                     | Anthony Sanchez, Livestream                 |
| Rev. Dr. Dawn Rosignol, Senior Minister | Rev. Charlotte Hoppe, Preaching & Presiding |

## Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*Descant*

4. Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus; stars of morn-ing, take your part;

1. Joy-ful, joy-ful, we a-dore thee, God of glo-ry, Lord of love;  
2. All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re-flect thy rays,  
3. Thou art giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blest,  
4. Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus stars of morn-ing, take your part;

love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, bind-ing those of ten-der heart. So  
hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, open-ing to the sun a-bove.  
stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.  
well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o-cean depth of hap-py rest!  
love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, bind-ing those of ten-der heart.

sing-ing, move we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife;  
Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, drive our fear and doubt a-way;  
Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flow-ery mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
Thou our Fa-ther, Christ our Broth-er, all who live in love are thine;  
Ev-er sing-ing, move we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife,  
joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.  
giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joyce in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth-er, lift us to the joy di-vine.  
joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

## Come and Find the Quiet Center

*Unison* F B $\flat$  C7

1. Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we  
2. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the  
3. In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's

F F B $\flat$

lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the  
pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our  
pain, let our loves and fears unravel, cell-e-

C7 F Am7

frame where we are freed: clear the chaos and the  
be-ing, touch-es base, making space with-in our  
brate the space we gain: there's a place for deep-est

Dm Am7 Dm Am7 B $\flat$  (C7)

clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the  
think-ing, lift-ing shades to show the sun, raising  
dream-ing, there's a time for heart to care, in the

F B $\flat$  C7 F

things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.  
courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.  
Spirit's lively schem-ing there is always room to spare!

## Help Us Accept Each Other

487

*Unison*

1. Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;  
 2. Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life  
 3. Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved  
 4. Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,

teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.  
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.  
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;  
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for righ - teous - ness and bread,

Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve  
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,  
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance, un - til we know by heart  
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on;

we are our - selves ac - cept - ed and meant to love and live.  
 to love them as we find them or as they may be - come.  
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.  
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us, make us one!

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1974  
 MUSIC: John Ness Beck, 1977

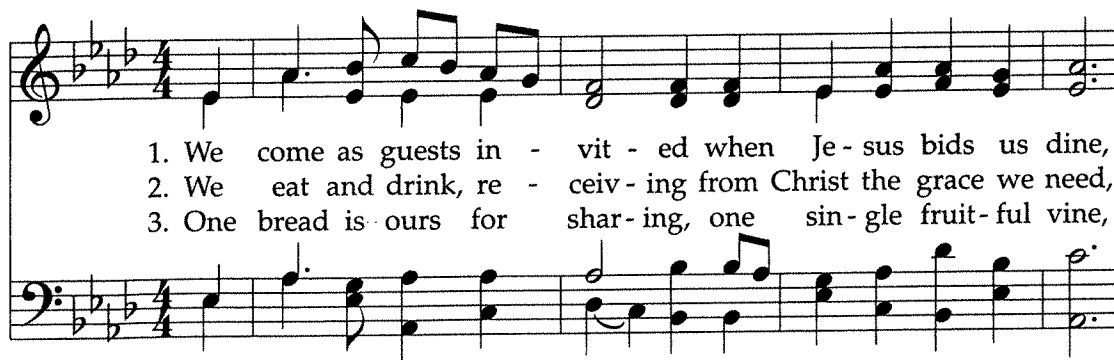
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ACCEPTANCE  
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## We Come as Guests Invited

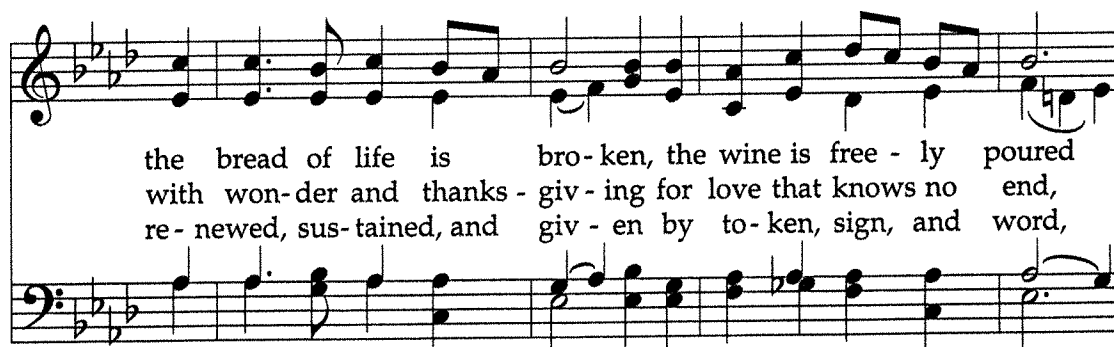
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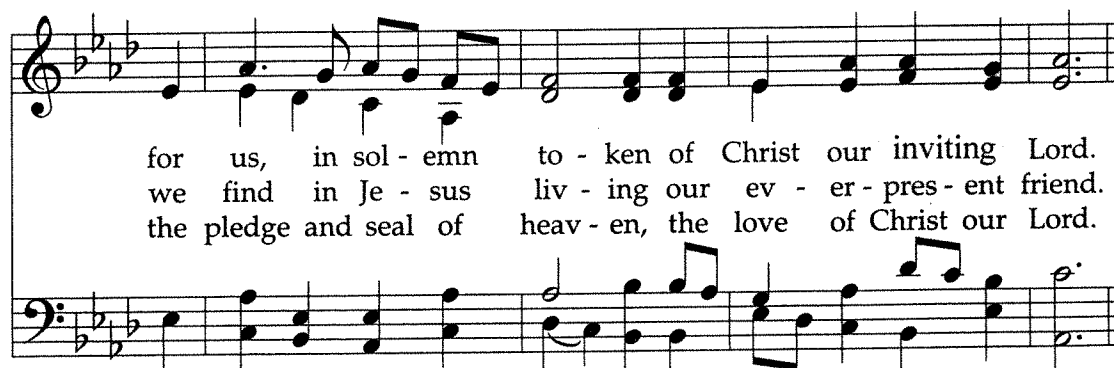
1. We come as guests in - vit - ed when Je - sus bids us dine,  
 2. We eat and drink, re - ceiv - ing from Christ the grace we need,  
 3. One bread is ours for shar - ing, one sin - gle fruit - ful vine,



his friends on earth u - nit - ed to share the bread and wine;  
 and in our hearts be - liev - ing on him by faith we feed;  
 our fel - low - ship de - clar - ing re - newed in bread and wine:



the bread of life is bro - ken, the wine is free - ly poured  
 with won - der and thanks - giv - ing for love that knows no end,  
 re - newed, sus - tained, and giv - en by to - ken, sign, and word,

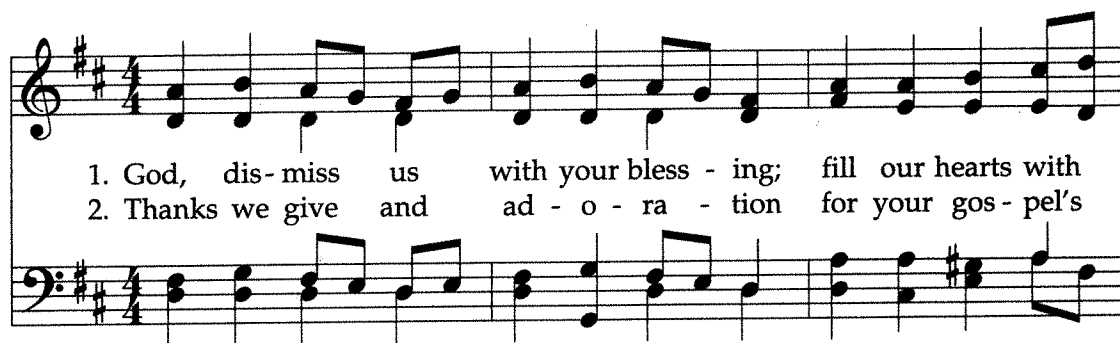


for us, in sol - emn to - ken of Christ our inviting Lord.  
 we find in Je - sus liv - ing our ev - er - pres - ent friend.  
 the pledge and seal of heav - en, the love of Christ our Lord.

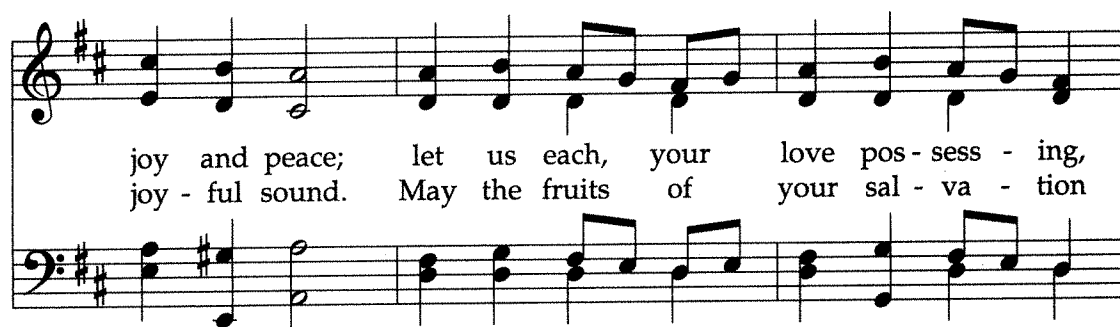
WORDS: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1975  
 MUSIC: Johann Steurlein, 1575

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN  
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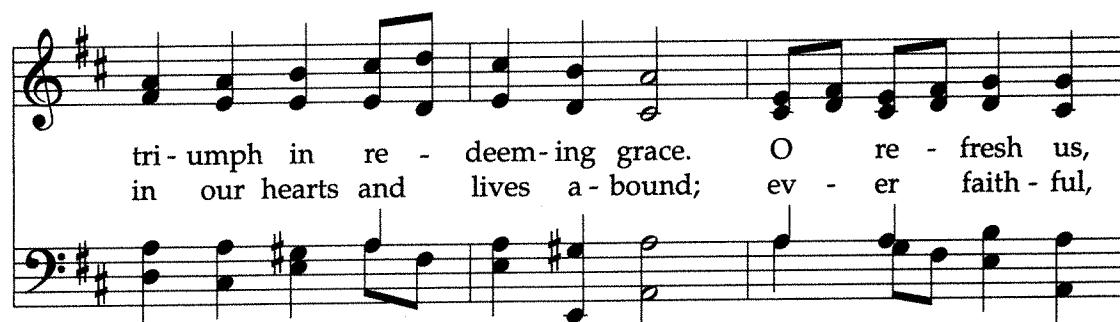
# 439 God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



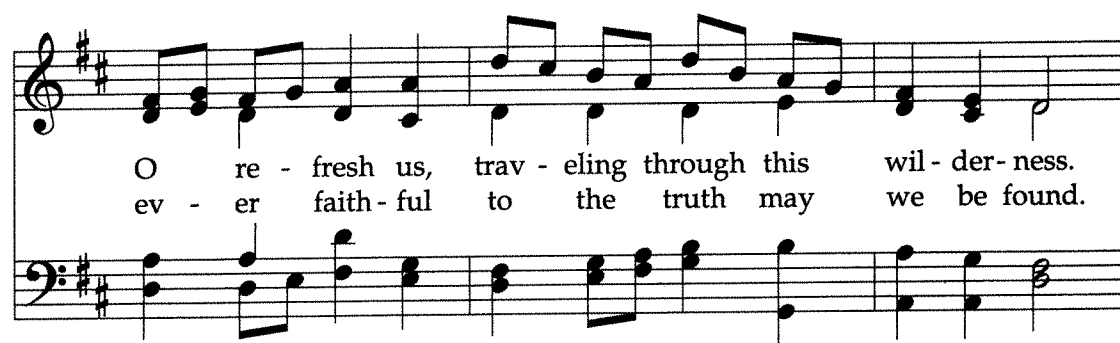
1. God, dis-miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
2. Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's



joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,  
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of your sal - va - tion



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,  
in our hearts and lives a - bound; ev - er faith - ful,



O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.  
ev - er faith - ful to the truth may we be found.

WORDS: Attr. John Fawcett, 1773, alt.

MUSIC: *The European Magazine and Review*, 1792; harm. *The Methodist Hymn and Tune Book*, 1889, alt.

SICILIAN MARINERS

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