

The altar flowers are given by: Sara Little and Barbara Shaver in loving memory of **Aletha Little** (Sara's mother) and **Jim Little** (Sara's brother) & by **Rich and Carol Rescigno** in honor of the September 12th wedding of Daniel (their son) and Stephanie.

PRELUDE

CENTERING WORDS

OPENING HYMN: *God of the Sparrow God of the Whale* No. 32
(see pg. 3)

OPENING PRAYER

Swirling, stirring, surging God, we confess that sometimes we feel tossed to and fro by the world today. Our minds are constantly churning, our hearts quicken in response to every breaking news story, our souls feel drained by the demand to respond faithfully. We long to be grounded and guided by You in ways that center us in the chaos of life. We hunger for solid ground when we feel overwhelmed by shifting sand on which we are trying to stand. We seek to put on the clothing of Christ in ways that are in concert with You, our great composer and conductor in the symphony of life. Open us today, tune and turn the instruments of our voices, hearts, and whole lives to be on the same page of music with You. In the name of the One who is the Lord of the Dance. Amen.

OUR ENCOUNTER with SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:4, 11-16

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling. ¹¹ The gifts God gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

SERMON

Grounded

HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
We will work with each other, we will work side by side.**

and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to Creator, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Je-sus, God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spi-rit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN

We Are Often Tossed and Driven

No. 444

We are often tossed and driven on the restless sea of time,
Somber skies and howling tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine;
In that land of perfect day, when the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by.

Refrain: By and by, when the morning comes,
when the saints of God are gathered home,
We'll tell the story how we've overcome:
for we'll understand it better by and by.

We are often destitute of the things that life demands,
Want of food and want of shelter, thirsty hills and barren lands;
In our God our trust's assured, and according to the Word.
We will understand it better by and by. (*Refrain*)

Trials harsh on every hand, and we cannot understand
All the ways that God would lead us to that blessed promised land;
We are guided by God's eye, and we'll follow till we die,
For we'll understand it better by and by. (*Refrain*)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

