

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 12th, 2021  9:30 am**

**Worship Service**

**ZOOM 706 565 767, Passcode 767**

**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**4887 Valleydale Road, Birmingham, AL 35242**

**(205) 995-9673** [**www.sothl.org**](about:blank)

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| **SOTH hills**  **Welcome to**  **Shepherd of the Hills**  **Lutheran Church**  *“A Place to Call Home”* | ***Our Mission Statement***  *Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church seeks to demonstrate God’s grace, to learn and grow in the Christian faith, and to serve with humility.*  ***Our Welcoming Statement***  *As an inclusive congregation, we welcome all into God’s love and grace without regard to:*  *Ability \* Age \* Beliefs \* Culture \* Ethnicity \* Gender Identity \* Income \* Language \* Life Circumstances \* Marital Status \* Race \* Sexual Orientation*  ***As God’s grace welcomes all, we are united in Christ*** |
| **Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you need assistance following the order of worship, feel free to ask your neighbor for help. May this time of worship encourage and strengthen you for the week ahead. We hope you’ll worship with us again.**  **Pastor**: Carolyn Hayford (803) 606-6683      **Secretary**: Liz Satterfield (205) 995-9673  **Musician**: Ann Jones (205) 902-2444 **Council President**: Larry Smith (205) 988-6449 | |

**Serving us today in Worship**:

**Worship Assistant**: John Boettner **Zoomster**: Susan Pritchett

**Reader**: Peggy Huckabaa **Head Zoom Usher**: Carrie Peters

**Children’s Message**: Kim Boettner **Music**: Ann Jones

**Soloist**: Eric Campbell

Please check out our new and improved website: [www.sothl.org](about:blank).

Note that pictures taken at various church events and services are posted on both our website and our Facebook page. If you do not want your picture to appear on our page or on the web site for any reason, please alert the church office at office@sothl.org or 205-995-9673 so that your request can be honored.

We pray that our time together will be an inspiration to all. Our order of worship is Setting Three from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW red). Our order of worship is printed in its entirety below. **Congregation** responses are indicated in **bold** print, P: Pastor, **C: Congregation**

**Order of Worship**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 12th, 2021

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**COMMUNION TODAY** Communion is today in the SOTH parking lot from 1-2:00 PM

**SNACKS FOR I.E.S./ FOOD STATION** Please bring individually packaged snacks for Inverness Elementary School when you come for Distribution of Holy Communion or meals/food for food station

**BLOOD DRIVE** Please sign up to donate for the blood driveon 10/13 at [www.redcross.org/giveor](http://www.redcross.org/giveor) sign up to staff the drive using the google form found in the newsletter

**Adult Forum today following service**

**MY YOUNG FRIENDS!!**  Today's Bible story is "Peter's Faith" on page 322 in your *Spark Story Bible*.  If you don't have a *Spark Story Bible* you can read the story in any Bible in Mark 8:27-38.  Who do YOU think Jesus is?  Is he someone who is close to you like a best friend?

**PRELUDE**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

**C: Amen**

A: Trusting God’s promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

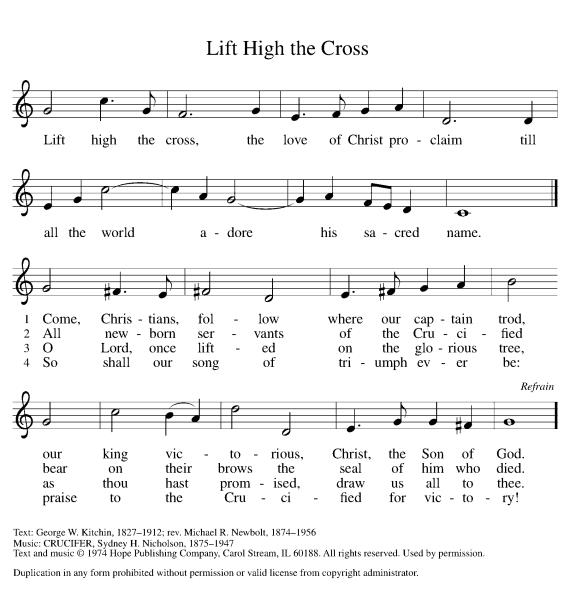
A: Eternal God our creator,

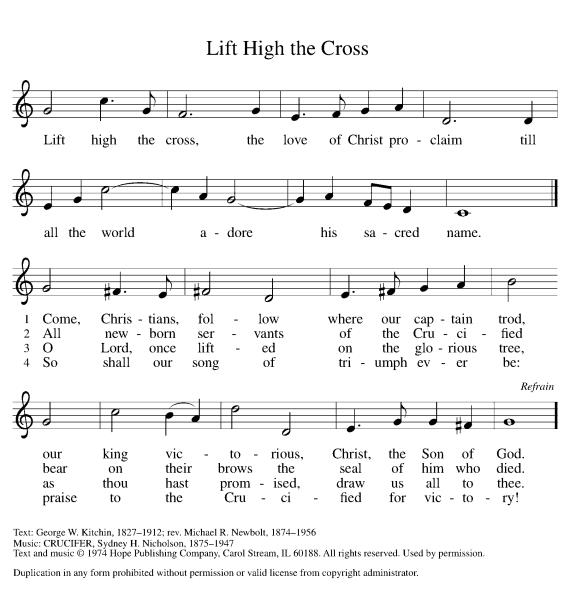
**C: In you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

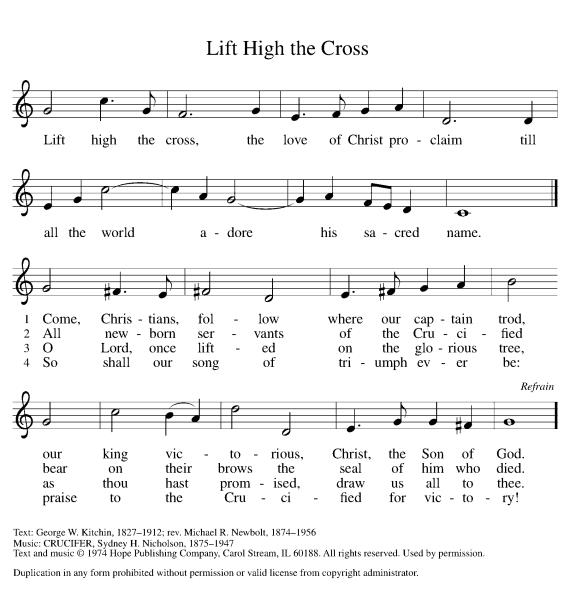
P: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ☩ forgives you all your sins.

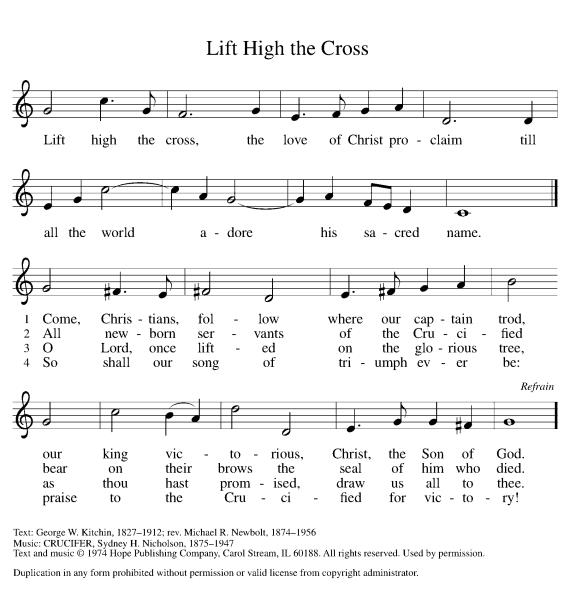
**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** ELW 660 Lift High the Cross verses 1, 3, & 4







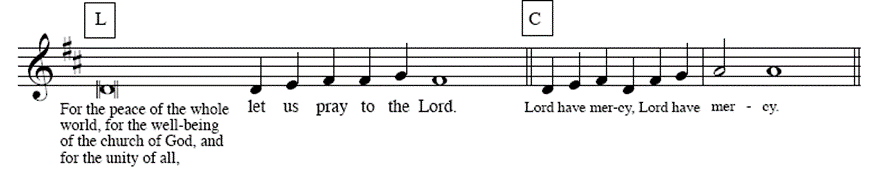


**Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

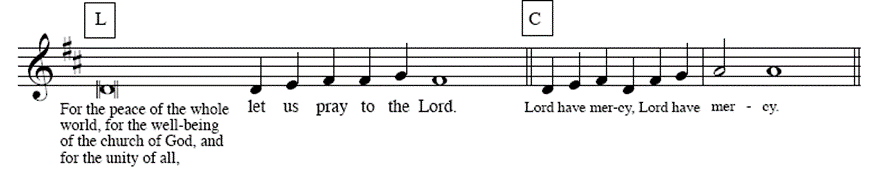
**C: And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

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**Prayer of the Day**

A: O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

### THE FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a

*The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today’s reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God’s steadfast love.*

4The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. 5The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. 6I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; did not hide my face from insult and spitting. 7The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; 8he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. 9aIt is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

### R: The word of the Lord

### C: Thanks be to God.

**THE PSALM** *Read Psalm 116:1-9 responsively.*

1I love the Lord, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

2**For the Lord has given ear to me** **whenever I called.**

3The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

4**Then I called upon the name of the Lord:** **“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”**

5Gracious is the Lord and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

6**The Lord watches over the innocent;** **I was brought low, and God saved me.**

7Turn again to your rest, O my soul. for the Lord has dealt well with you.

8**For you have rescued my life from death,** **my eyes from tears, and my feet from**

**stumbling;**

9I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

**Second Reading James 3:1-12**

*This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.*

1Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. 3If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. 4Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! 6And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, 8but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. 10From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. 11Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? 12Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



### THE HOLY GOSPEL Mark 8:27-38

### C: Glory to you, O Lord.

*This story provides the turning point in Mark’s gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.*

27Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” 28And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” 29He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” 30And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. 31Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”  
  34He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

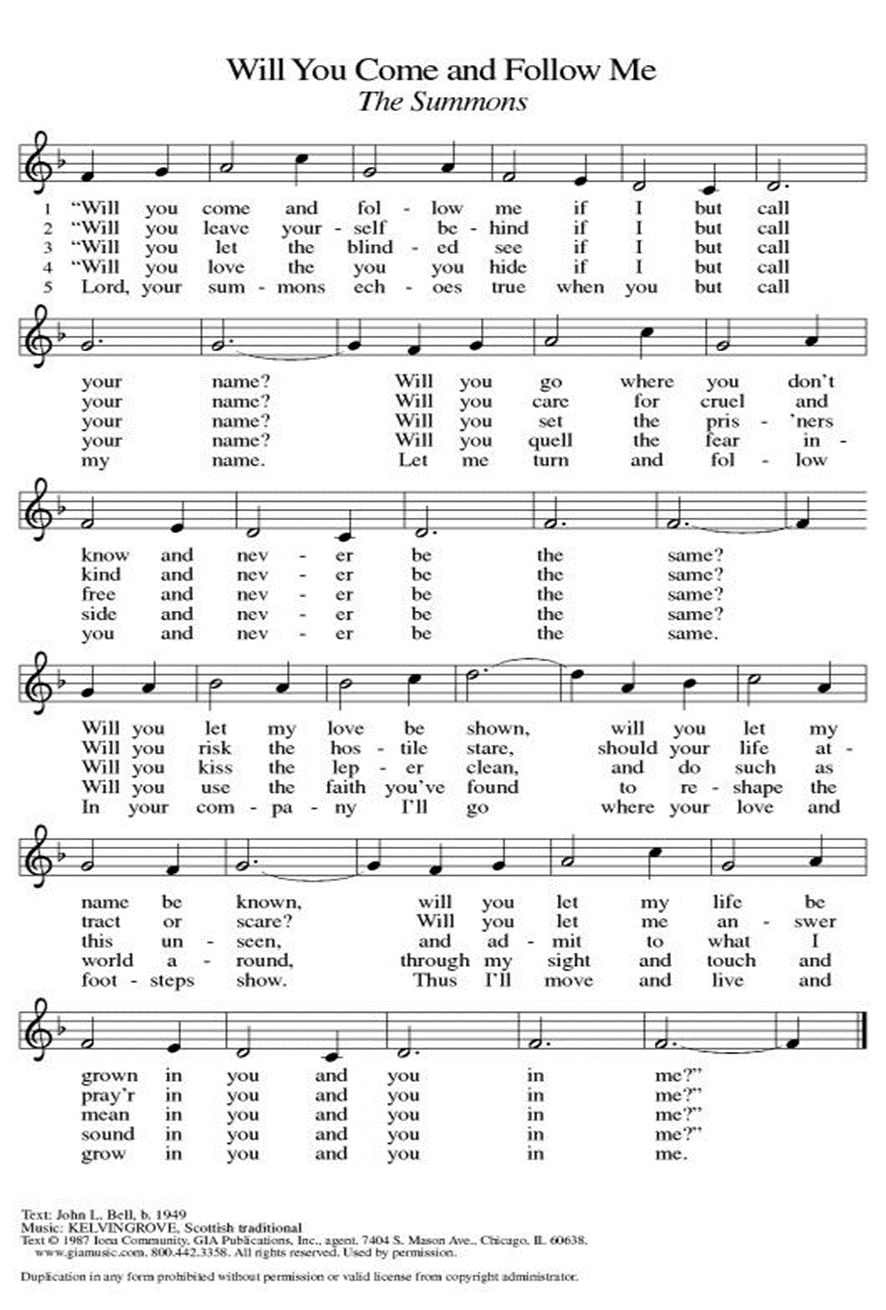
P: The gospel of the Lord.

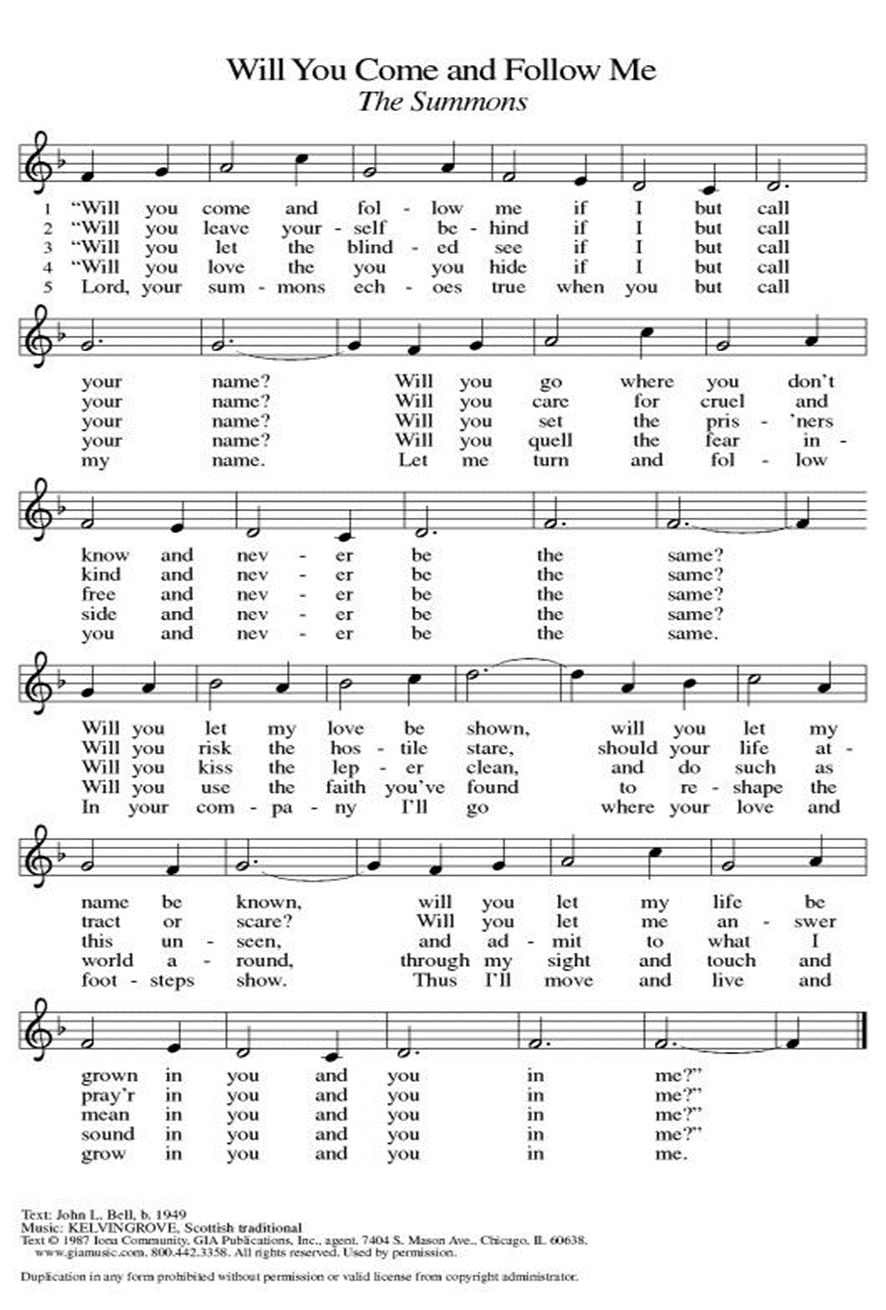
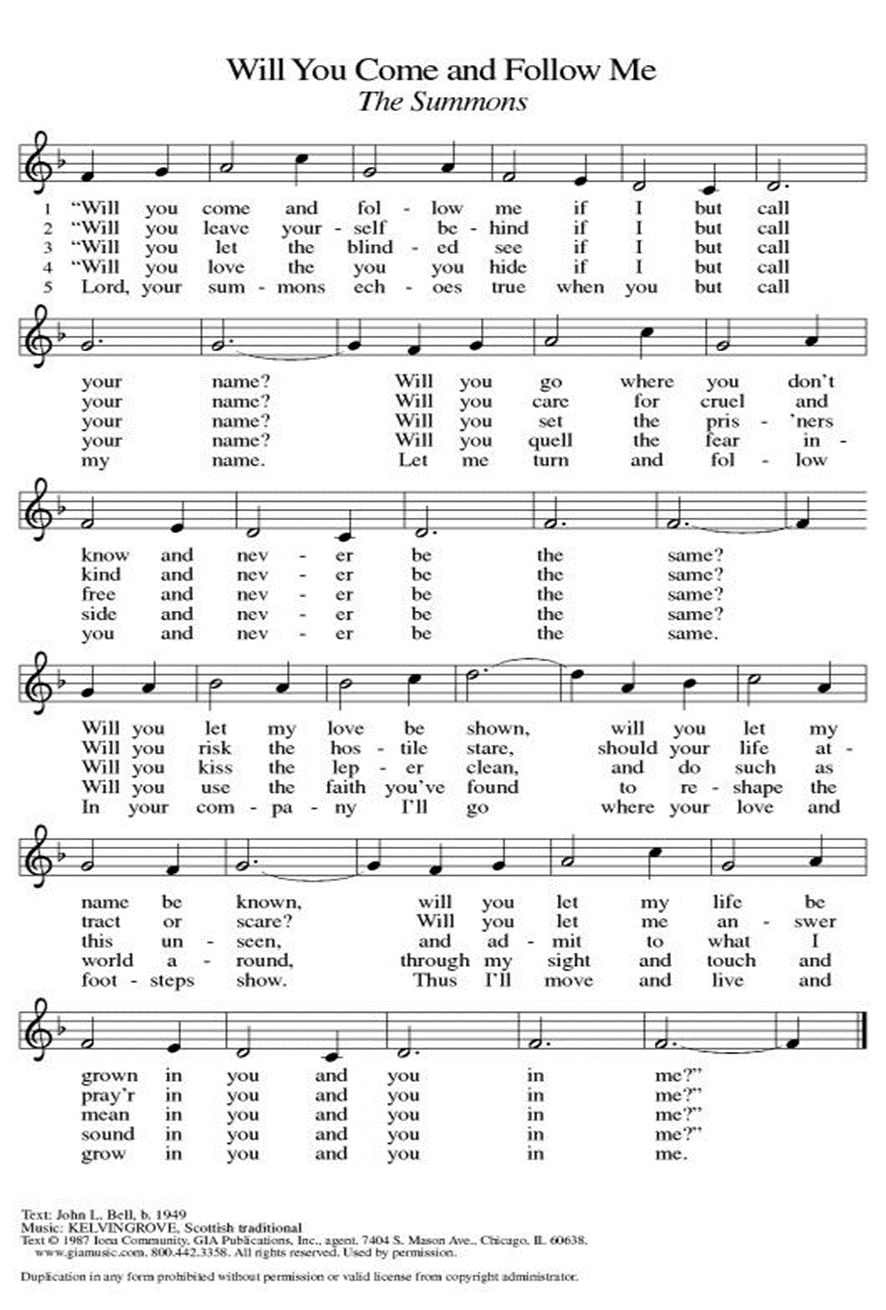
**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

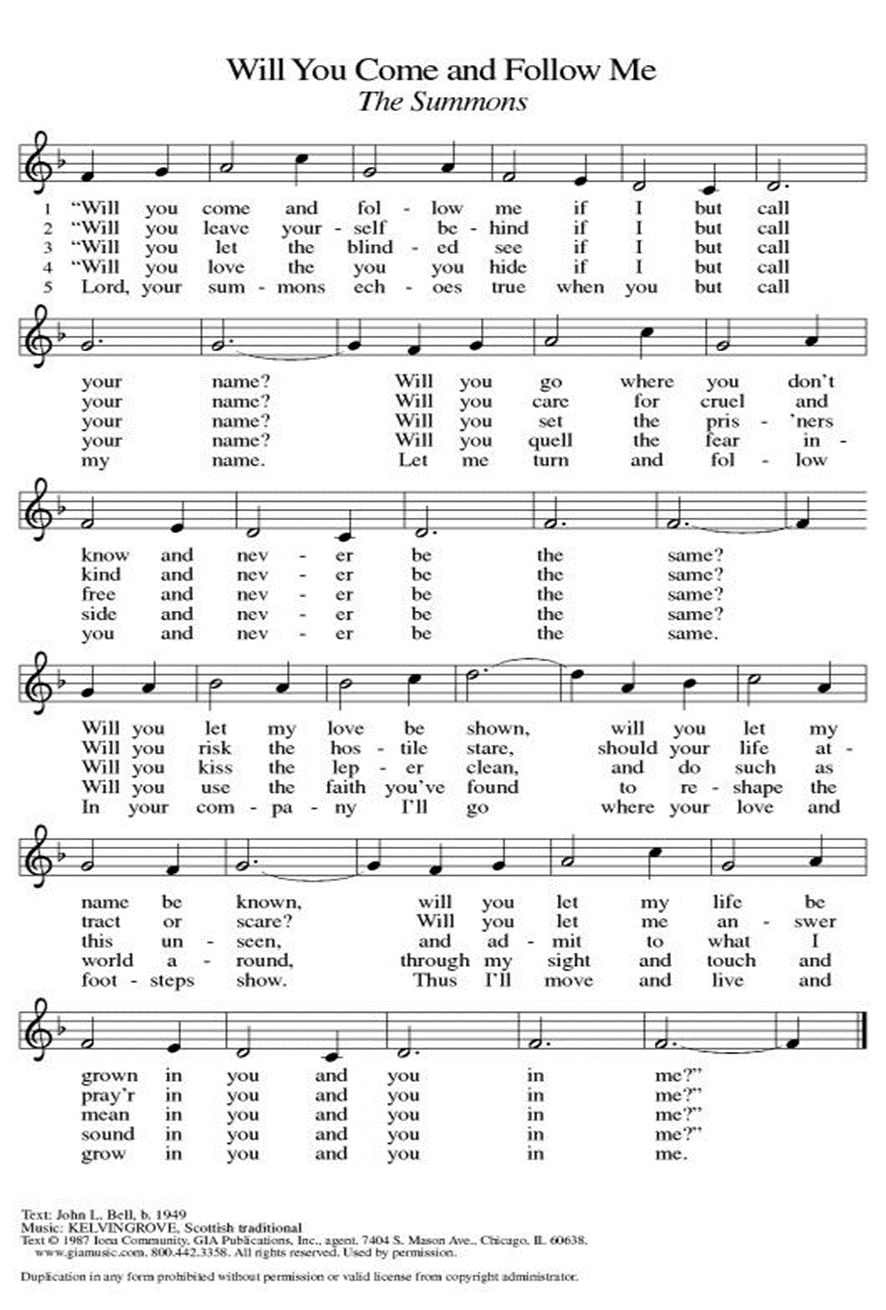
**THE SERMON**

**THE HYMN OF THE DAY** 798 Will You Come and Follow Me verses 1, 3 & 5









**THE APOSTLES CREED** ELW 105

A: Let us confess together our faith using the words of the Apostle’s Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I 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 again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I 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. Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

A: Lord, in your mercy **C: hear our prayer.**

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**THE OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray together,

**C:** **Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing.**

**You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also, with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P:It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,that we should at all times and in all placesgive thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,through our Savior Jesus Christ;who on this day overcame death and the grave,and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.And so, with all the choirs of angels,with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your**

**glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna**

**in the highest.**

**EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (Please speak whichever version, in whatever language, you prefer.)

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

A: Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**THE HOLY COMMUNION** *Holy Communion is served from 1-2 p.m. in the parking lot of SOTHL today.*

**DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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**Next Week’s Lesson**

**THE FIRST READING:** Jeremiah 11:18-20

**PSALM:** Psalm 54

**THE SECOND READING:** James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

**THE GOSPEL:** Mark 9:30-37

**Intercessory Prayer**

We are a praying community; believing in the value of prayer.  We ask that you keep the congregation, our community, and all those on the prayer list insert in your prayers during the week. Prayer request cards can be found in the Narthex or in the back of the hymnal.

Please utilize the Intercessory Prayer insert during your prayers this week.

**Worship Servants for** **September 19, 2021**

**Worship Assistant**: Marie Prine **Zoomster**: Phil Pomeroy

**Reader**: Bob Peters **Head Zoom Usher:** Susan Pritchett

**Children’s Message**: Carla Crowder **Music**: Ann Jones

**THIS WEEK AT SOTH**

**Sunday 9/12**9:30 am E-Worship **Meeting ID** 706 565 767,

**Pass code** 767

10 minutes Adult Forum

following service

1-2:00 pm Communion Parking Lot of SOTH

**Monday**

7:00 pm AA – New Hope

**Tuesday** 7:00 pm Zoom Social**/**Covid19 Q&A **Meeting ID** 706 565 767, **Pass code** 767

**Wednesday** 9:30 am Wednesday Bible Study **Meeting ID** 175 995 438

6:30 pm Prayer, Meditation and **Meeting ID** 706 565 767

Conversation **Pass code** 767

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday** 6:30 pm AA – New Hope

**Sunday**

**MY YOUNG FRIENDS** Today's Bible story is "God will bring Peace" on page 164 in your *Spark Story Bible*.  If you don't have a *Spark Story Bible* you can read the story in any Bible in Isaiah 2:1-5.  Remember you are God's tools to help bring peace.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

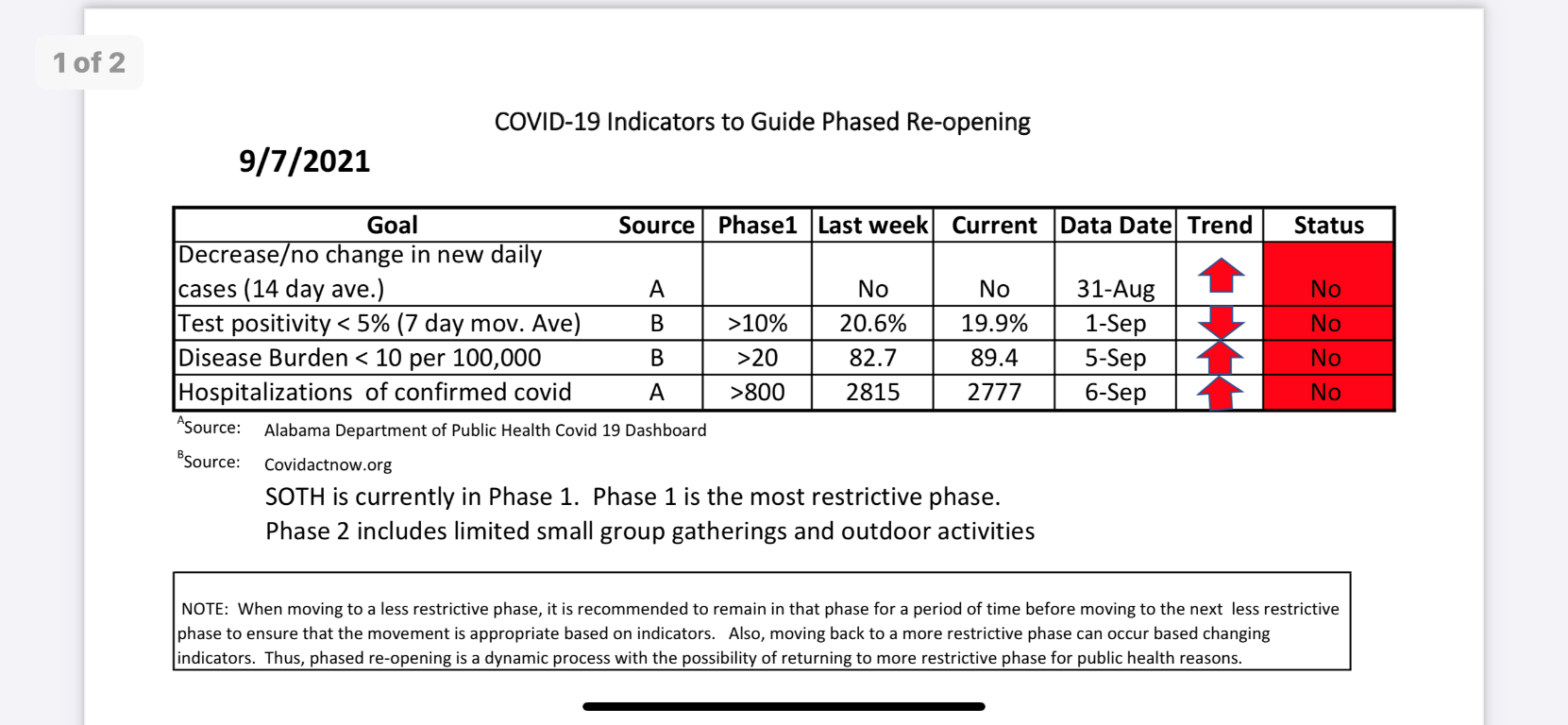
**FOOD PANTRY** As school gets back in session, families are in need of food and our meals consumption is up. For families struggling, extra food means all the difference in their lives.  You can join in this vital ministry where people feel loved and valued and their bellies are filled. Please consider either creating bags using the recipes on the website or create your own recipes and share them with us so we can put it in the rotation. If you would prefer, you can donate money instead to evangelism / outreach either on line (<https://secure.myvanco.com/YM4V/home>) or by check.  Thank you for your generosity.

**GARDEN GROUP FALL CLEAN UP &PLANTING DAY** All are welcome! Sunday, September 19th at 2 p.m. We will prepare our garden beds for a Fall and Winter harvest by pulling up summer plants, turning and amending the soil, and planting Fall/Winter seeds. Bring garden gloves and a rake or shovel if you have one. You can bring seeds for Fall planting – for example, lettuce, kale, carrots, radishes. Our garden bounty is free for the picking to our Food Pantry guests! Contact Susan Pritchett [sspritch@bellsouth.net](mailto:sspritchett@bellsouth.net) or 205-602-1282 for more information.

**BLOOD DRIVE** Red cross blood drive is being held 10/13/21 at SOTHL from 1-6 PM Please sign up at <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html>. Also need volunteers to staff the event. Please reach out to Pastor, the office or Susan Pritchett to sign up.

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS** We need people willing to assist with worship. Please consider stepping into a new role such as audio. We also need folks to assist as zoomsters, readers, children’s messages & ushers. How is the Holy Spirit nudging you? Not sure you are up to it? Give it a try

**COVID-19 Notifiers**: The COVID Task Force has established the following process to ensure we do not need to modify our current procedures and to help identify a potential cluster early: Anyone who attends a church even (even parking lot ones) or has been in the church building for any reason, and tests positive for COVID within 2 weeks of being here, is asked to contact one of the volunteers on this list below. Your name will be kept completely confidential. Thank you! Jared Brunswick, 205-531-5428, [jrdbrunswick@yahoo.com](about:blank); Erica Bjornstad, 443-717-0065, [ericaecuador@yahoo.com](about:blank); Susan Pritchett, 205-602-1282, [sspritch@bellsouth.net](about:blank).

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**ZOOM Meetings**

**SUNDAY – E - WORSHIP:**

Sundays at 9:30 am. Consider signing on early to catch up with friends and family.  The room is open at 9:00 am. Click on the link below:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/706565767?pwd=MjJMbEIyM2pNMkkvaHJWNW1YSHU0UT09](about:blank)

Or call this number:  1-312-626-6799

Enter Meeting ID 706 565 767, Passcode 767

**SUNDAY – SPANISH PRAYER MINISTRY:**

Led by Pastor Ed Cortes – 1st Sunday in the Month at 2:30pm

Click this link: [https://zoom.us/j/88295986939](about:blank)

Or call this number: 1-646-558-8656 Enter Meeting ID: 882 959 -6939

**MONDAY – SOTH COVID TASK FORCE:**

Mondays at 7:00PM – Based on circumstance

Click this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/706565767?pwd=MjJMbEIyM2pNMkkvaHJWNW1YSHU0UT09](about:blank)

Or Call this number:  1-312-626-6799 Enter Meeting ID 706 565 767, Passcode 767

**TUESDAY – NIGHT ZOOM SOCIAL:**

A question and answer session with Erica Bjornstad, pediatrician epidemiologist, regarding current status of COVID-19 which has morphed into a Friendly support group. If you do have any questions about COVID-19 or just want to check in with some friendly folks. Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/706565767?pwd=MjJMbEIyM2pNMkkvaHJWNW1YSHU0UT09>

Or call this number: 1-312-626-6799 Enter meeting ID: 706 565 767, Passcode 767

**WEDNESDAY – BIBLE STUDY:**

Wednesday at 9:30am

Click this link: [https://zoom.us/j/175995438](about:blank)

Or call this number: 1-312-626-6799 Enter Meeting ID: 175 995 438

**WEDNESDAY – LYDIA CIRCLE:**

All women are welcome to join. Normally first Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am

Click this link:   [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/524874986](about:blank)

Or call this number: 1-312-626-6799 Enter meeting ID:  524 874 986

**WEDNESDAY PRAYER, MEDITATION & CONVERSATION**

Join Pastor Carolyn and your church friends to talk openly in a safe space. Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 pm

Click this link:  

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/706565767?pwd=MjJMbEIyM2pNMkkvaHJWNW1YSHU0UT09>

Or call this number: 1-312-626-6799 Enter Meeting ID 706 565 767, Passcode 767

**2021 CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

**COUNCIL OFFICERS**

Larry Smith, President

Bob Oster, Vice President

Brooke Breland, Secretary

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Dede Conover-Blankenship, Fellowship Committee Liaison

Will Breland, Outreach Committee Liaison

Bob Peters

Marie Prine, Worship Committee Liaison

Tracy Teague, Learning Committee Liaison

OPEN Facilities Committee Liaison

OPEN Stewardship Committee Liaison

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

John Boettner, Worship

Rachel Brunswick, Learning

Mike Huckabaa, Facilities

Susan Pritchett, Fellowship

Dennis Steul, Stewardship

Jeanne Trammell Outreach/Witness (Temporarily contact Susan Pritchett)