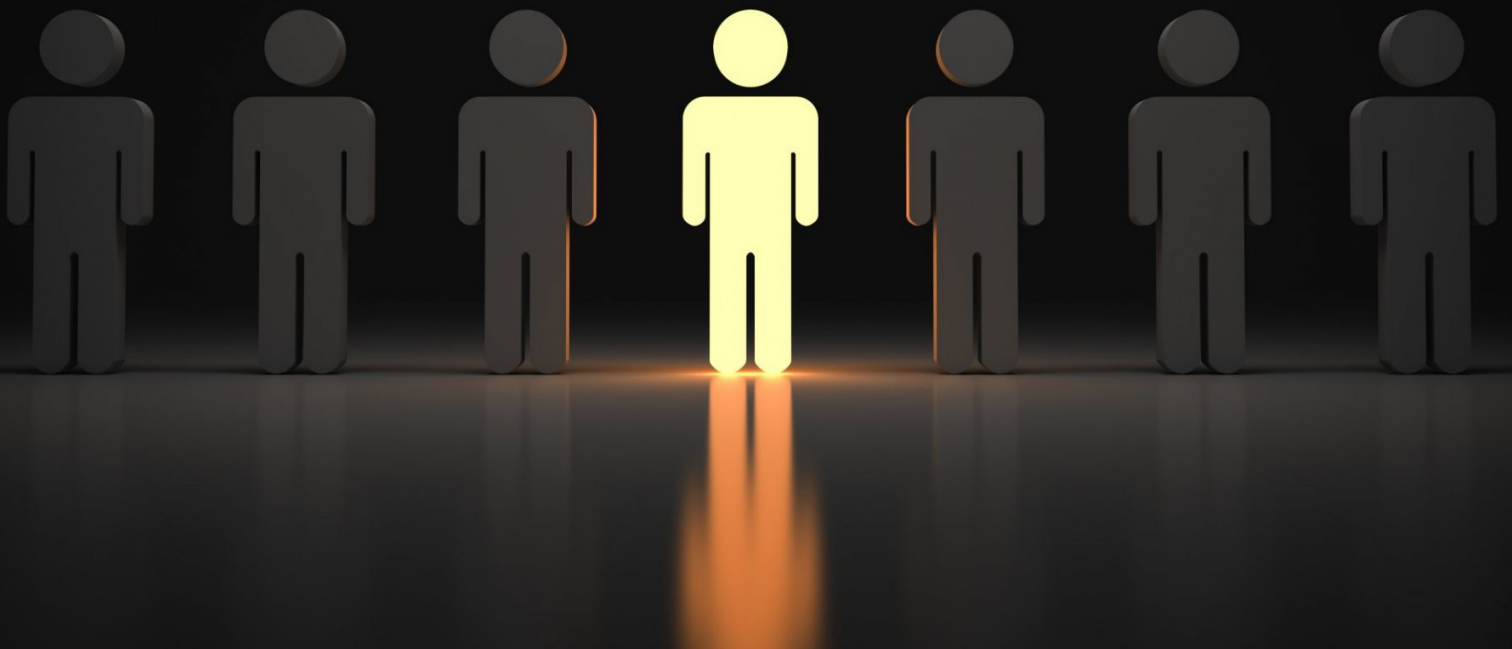


# Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2023

When people talk about faith, they usually mean impressing someone else's thoughts and attitudes onto one's own mind. They claim that such faith is the very apex of religion. . .



But, in reality, it is a betrayal of truth and an enslavement of the heart. True faith is a place where you can be entirely honest with yourself and where you can be yourself. Indeed, the desire to be yourself is the beginning of faith.

*from On Religion, by Friedrich Schleiermacher*

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**Sunday, July 16, 2023**  
*Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

Prelude *Jesus Loves Me (based on Clair de Lune)* arr. Bock

Call to Worship

\*Opening Hymn *God Reigns o'er All the Earth*

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive/Unison Prayer of Invocation

*One:* Joy belongs to those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts.  
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.

**All: By awesome deeds you answer us, O God of our salvation;  
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.**

*One:* With strength you established the mountains;  
you silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves,  
and the tumult of the peoples.

**All: Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;  
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.  
You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it;**

*One:* The river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain.  
You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

**All: The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy!**

*(Psalm 65:1-13)*

\*The Peace of Christ

*One:* "The Peace of Christ be with you."

**All: And also with you!**

John 14:1-7

Blessing

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\* As the Spirit guides you, we encourage you to rise in body or spirit.

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Sermon

"Jesus: *The Way or A Way?*"

*(first preached, Sunday, September 30, 2007)*

Hymn

*We Love Your Realm, O God*

Prayers of the People

The 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.*

*Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*Like The Murmur of The Dove's Song*

*Carter*

Doxology

*Each week, we sing and sign an inclusive Doxology (ASL).*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God all creatures here below.*

*Praise God for all that Love has done.*

*Creator, Christ, & Spirit one. Amen.*

\*Closing Hymn

*There's A Wideness In God's Mercy*

Benediction

Postlude

*Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho*

*Carter*

—◆◆—  
*A special welcome to our friends from Edwards Church and, helping us lead worship  
today, Reverend Nina Radtke.*

*Following the Closing Hymn, we encourage the congregation to remain risen, in body  
or spirit, to receive the Benediction, which is both blessing and commission. You may  
sit for the Postlude in quiet contemplation.*

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### ***Our Core Values***

- Community
- Intergenerational Life
- Service and Social Action
- Worship and Spiritual Life
- Welcome and Hospitality

### ***Our Bedrock Beliefs***

- We believe we are called to be kind, love justice, and walk humbly with God.
  - We believe that God is present with us always in times of trial and rejoicing.
  - We embrace Jesus' call to love and serve one another.
  - We believe that God hears and answers our prayers.
  - We believe in the fullness of God's grace (unmerited favor).
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# God Reigns o'er All the Earth

21

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Isa. 52:7-10

1 God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val-leys low, the  
2 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Through youth and ag-ing years, in  
3 God reigns o'er time and space! In his-tory's by-gone days, Christ's  
4 God reigns! Em-man - u - el! God with us ev-ery day, in

farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau-ty show.  
death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.  
faith-ful folk in rev-erence spoke to bring God earn-est praise.  
all our past and to the last, our com-fort and our stay.

God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread-ing plains, in  
God reigns o'er hu-man life! Our in-spi-ra-tion still. Through  
God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal-ax-y and sun, through  
God reigns! Em-man - u - el! Let praise to Christ be sung! God's

rain-bow hues— reds, yel-lows, blues— of streams and coun-try lanes.  
all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign-ing will.  
time-less years the cos-mos hears the heaven-ly mu-sic run.  
pres-ence here makes all things dear. Let joy-ful bells be rung!

*The author's notes on this text describe it as a progression of awareness of God's reign among us—in physical surroundings, in the various stages of life, in time and space, and supremely in Christ, God with us.*

Tune: TERRA BEATA S.M.D.  
Traditional English melody  
Adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915


# We Love Your Realm, O God

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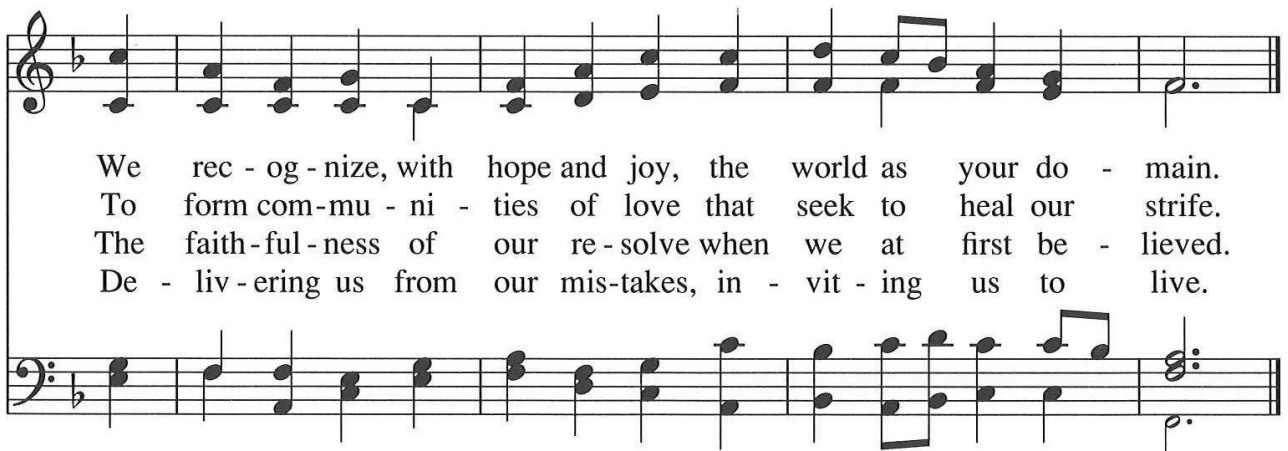
Timothy Dwight, 1801

Adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992

Ps. 26:8



1 We love your realm, O God, all places where you reign.  
2 We love your church, O God, for Christ has given life  
3 We recognize, with pain, that we have not achieved  
4 Yet Christ, our friend and guide, continues to forgive,



We recognize, with hope and joy, the world as your domain.  
To form communities of love that seek to heal our strife.  
The faithfulness of our resolve when we at first believed.  
Delivering us from our mistakes, inviting us to live.

5 Beyond our brokenness,  
we seek to know your ways  
Of deep communion, solemn vows,  
and hymns of love and praise.

6 We know your truth will last.  
We trust your reign is sure.  
Equip us for those daily tasks  
that help your world endure.

*This poem by Lavon Bayler, a United Church of Christ minister, was inspired by and modeled after the oldest commonly used American hymn, "I Love Thy Kingdom" by Timothy Dwight.*

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.  
Williams' New Universal Psalmodist, 1770

# There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.*

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;  
 2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.  
 and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;  
 If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.  
 and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

*Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of psalms.*

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Dutch melody  
 Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906  
 Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA



**FRAMINGHAM  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS**

**SUMMER**

**DONATION DRIVE**

**FRAMINGHAM'S "WRAPAROUND" SERVICE IS ASKING FOR HELP  
COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR STUDENTS:**

**WINDBREAKERS,  
JACKETS, SWEATSHIRTS,  
RAIN BOOTS, RAINWEAR  
WOOL SOCKS  
(YOUTH/ADULT SIZES)  
LUNCH BOXES  
WATER BOTTLES**

**DROP-OFFS IN  
THE PARISH HALL  
JULY 16-AUGUST 27**

**WRAPAROUND IS A FAMILY-DRIVEN, TEAM-BASED PROCESS FOR PLANNING AND PROVIDING SUPPORT AND STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS. THE WRAPAROUND PROCESS CREATES A PLAN DESIGNED TO MEET THE UNIQUE AND HOLISTIC NEEDS OF EACH FAMILY.**

# SUMMER

## Worship 2023

**JULY to RALLY DAY in the PARISH HALL**

### HOME

**JULY 9**

**JULY 16**

We host Edwards Church

**JULY 23**

**JULY 30**

**AUGUST 6**

**AUGUST 13**

We host Edwards Church

**AUGUST 27**

**SEPTEMBER 3**

### AWAY

**JULY 2**

at Edwards Church

**AUGUST 20**

at Edwards Church

**RALLY DAY**

**September 10!**

**All services begin at 10:00 a.m.**

The Plymouth Church in Framingham  
[www.plymouthchurchframingham.org](http://www.plymouthchurchframingham.org)