



+ Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 17, 2025



St. Andrew Lutheran Church
304 Morewood Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
St_andrewELCA@verizon.net
www.standrewpittsburgh.org



+ Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Order for Worship

*The Word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history.
He invites our undivided attention and devotion.
Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.”
In the Word and in Holy Communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus,
“the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”*

Welcome to St. Andrew!

- St. Andrew welcomes all who are seeking a place of healing, wholeness, and acceptance in a nurturing and faith-forming spiritual home. We are striving toward racial equity worldwide and we seek to honor the lived experience of all individuals regardless of background. Our community embraces people of all ages, ethnicities, cultures, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and family constellations. Come and See!
- Worship Services are live-streamed to multiple online platforms. By attending worship, you agree that your image and voice may be broadcast.
- Everyone is invited to make a name tag at the black bookcase in the back of the worship space if they would like. There are stickers indicating pronouns on the bookcase if you would like to include them on your name tag.
- A nursery is available through the doors at the left side of the sanctuary and across from the doorway to the Social Hall. Look for a purple-colored room.
- Worship “toolkits” to help children engage with the service, along with “busy bags” for younger children, are available in the bookcase at the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to take one to use with/for your children.
- Holy Communion is served with bread (gluten-free available) and wine or grape juice. The presiding minister will distribute the bread (host). Please consume this and then pick up an empty glass from the tray. The Communion Assistant will pour wine or grape juice into your glass. Please step to the side to consume the wine or grape juice. Feel free to kneel at the altar for prayer and reflection. As you return to your pew, glasses may be returned to the empty trays on either side of the center section.
- A restroom is available on the main level of the church, through the doors to the Social Hall and to the right in the main office.

Abbreviations

P: Pastor/Presiding Minister

A: Assisting Minister

L: Lector

C: Congregation

ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal

ACS: All Creation Sings hymnal

Musical Offering

Each week, different people from the congregation make an offering of pre-service music, with singing or instrumentation, to help the assembly focus and pray in preparation for worship.

Welcome

Prelude

We All Are One in Mission

arr. Carter

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: you free us to love others,

but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,

but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.

You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,

but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us.

Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life.

Amen.

P: You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.

In the cross of ✝ Christ,

and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

God Is Here!

ELW 526



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

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.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth.

Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Word

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song

First Reading – Jeremiah 23: 23-29

²³ Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed! I have dreamed!” ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 82

The psalm will be spoken responsively, led by the cantor, with the congregation reading the verses in bold type.

¹ God stands to charge the divine council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

² **“How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?”**

³ Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;
⁴ **rescue the weak and the poor;**
deliver them from the power of the wicked.
⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
⁶ **Now I say to you, 'You are gods,**
and all of you children of the Most High;
⁷ nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.' ”
⁸ **Arise, O God, and rule the earth,**
for you shall take all nations for your own.

Second Reading – Hebrews 11: 29 – 12: 2

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

**C: Alleluia. My sheep hear my voice.
I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia.**

Gospel – Luke 12: 49-56

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹“I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze!
⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is
completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather
division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two
against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say,
‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say,
‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the
appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

*A time of silence for prayer and reflection follows the sermon.
When the hymn of the day begins, please rise as you are able.*



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive
 2 Christ is the death of all that is; a broad and beck - 'ning
 3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing
 4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the



Word, whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the
 tomb, who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to
 fire, whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as
 End; cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans -



worlds to Be - ing stirred. Christ is the life be - yond all
 dark - ness of the womb. Christ is the death, the sink - ing
 kin - dling for the pyre. Christ is the death of dust - y
 form - ing burn - ing brand. Christ is the life, in whose wise



time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath, whose la - bor
 down past all de - sire and fear, whose prom - ise
 days of un - cre - a - tive strife, for out from
 love cre - a - tion lives and dies and thus for -



brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
 in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.
 fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.
 ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: COE FEN, Kenneth Naylor, 1931–1991

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Apostles' 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.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

Prayers of the People

A: As stewards of God's creation,
we join with the whole church to pray for the needs of the world and its people.

After each petition

A: Gracious God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayers and hopes in you, O God,
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

The presiding minister and the assembly greet one another in the peace of the risen Christ.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The people may greet those around them with a sign of Christ's peace and may say Peace be with you or similar words. Please be mindful that not everyone will be comfortable with sharing the peace, so please seek consent before shaking hands or hugging. Other possible ways to share the peace include a simple bow with the verbal greeting of peace, or simply a verbal expression of peace.

When the greetings of peace have concluded, please be seated.



Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering

*We offer ourselves, our gifts, and our faithful service to God.
As the offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need,
the table is set for Holy Communion.*

There are laminated giving cards in the pew racks that feature a QR code for anyone who would like to give online. Those who give using the QR code, as well as those who give regularly online or through their bank are encouraged to place the laminated card in the plate as an expression of your offering.

Noisy Offering

As children of the congregation carry buckets around the sanctuary, people of the congregation are invited to throw in their change as an offering. This month's noisy offering will benefit the nearby Latino Community Center, whose mission is "To provide our children, youth, and families the tools and opportunities needed to reach their full potential through educational programming, family support, and community building."

Offertory Music

How Firm a Foundation

arr. Edstrom

As the gifts are brought forward for presentation, please rise as you are able.

Offertory Song

ELW 465

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Creator God,

C: in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor, that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Dialogue

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.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give 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:

Sanctus

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Eucharistic Prayer

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord ...
... to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

**C: 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

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

Fraction and Invitation

Agnus Dei / Lamb of God

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Please be seated.

Holy Communion

- *All who seek God and desire a deeper and stronger life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*
- *Worshipers from the pulpit side will proceed forward first, followed by the center section, and then the lectern side.*
- *Please inform an usher if you would like the ministers to bring Communion to you.*
- *Holy Communion will be served with bread and wine (amber) or grape juice (purple).*
- *The presiding minister will first distribute the bread (host) to each communicant. Please indicate if you require a gluten-free host.*
- *Once you have consumed the bread, please pick up an empty glass from the tray next to the presiding minister. The Communion Assistant will pour wine or grape juice into your glass.*

- Please step to the side to consume the wine or grape juice.
- Feel free to kneel at the altar rail for prayer after receiving the sacrament.
- As you return to your pew, glasses may be returned to the empty tray on the side of the center section.
- A blessing will be provided for anyone who does not yet receive the sacrament.
- All are invited to join in singing the hymns during Holy Communion.

Hymns during Holy Communion

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

ELW 517

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Hymns during Holy Communion

How Firm a Foundation

ELW 796



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

Hymns during Holy Communion

Rejoice in God's Saints

ELW 418



1 Re - joice in God's saints to - day and all days!
2 Some march with e - vents to turn them God's way;
3 Re - joice in those saints, un - praised and un - known,
4 Re - joice in God's saints to - day and all days!



A world with - out saints for - gets how to praise.
some need to with - draw, the bet - ter to pray;
who bear some - one's cross, or shoul - der their own:
A world with - out saints for - gets how to praise.



Their faith in ac - quir - ing the hab - it of prayer,
some car - ry the gos - pel through fire and through flood:
they share our com - plain - ing, our com - forts, our cares:
In lov - ing, in liv - ing, they prove it is true:



their depth of a - dor - ing, Lord, help us to share.
our world is their par - ish, their pur - pose is God.
what pa - tience in car - ing, what cour - age is theirs!
their way of self - giv - ing, Lord, leads us to you.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: LAUDATE DOMINUM, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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When all have returned to their places, please rise as you are able.

Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart,
and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ.
Now send us forth to be your people in the world,
and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Announcements

Please rise as you are able.

Benediction

P: The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

Following page

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Refrain - All

We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord;
trust-ing in his ho-ly word, he's nev-er failed us yet.
Oh, can't turn a-round, we've come this
far by faith. We've come this far by faith.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The first system is marked 'Refrain - All'. The second system continues the melody. The third system features a triplet in both the vocal and piano parts. The fourth system concludes the piece with a double bar line.

Text: Albert A. Goodson, 1883-1947
Music: THIS FAR BY FAITH, Albert A. Goodson
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Serving in Worship Today

Altar Care
Assisting Minister
Audio-Visual Ministers

Cantor
Lector
Minister of Music
Presiding Minister

Beverley Chapman
Colleen Cooke
David Rollinson
Jered Stratton
Richard Krug
Michael Chapman
Laura Reynolds
The Rev. Ross I. Carmichael

Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements

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Please use the QR code below to link to St. Andrew’s Announcements online!



**St. Andrew Lutheran Church Announcements
August 17th, 2025**

- **Welcome to Worship at St. Andrew on the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost!** – We are so glad you are here, and we offer a special welcome to all visitors and guests who are here for the first time! In the heat of summer St. Andrew moves to a primarily spoken setting of worship. There are worship “toolkits” to help children engage with worship and “busy bags” for younger children available in the bookcase at the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to take one to use with/for your children. A nursery is available through the door to the left of the worship space and across the social hall (look for a purple room).
- **Noisy Offering during Worship Today** – This month’s noisy offering will benefit the Latino Community Center. Located on Baum Blvd., this organization’s mission is “To provide our children, youth, and families the tools and opportunities needed to reach their

full potential through educational programming, family support, and community building.” For more information, please visit <https://www.latinocommunitycenter.org/>.

- **August Shelter Dinner for Guests of East End Cooperative Ministry – Third Thursday of the Month, August 21st, 6:30 p.m.** – Each month, people of St. Andrew provide dinner for guests of East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM), 6140 Station St. (East Liberty), 15206. We invite you to prepare or purchase one menu item and bring it to the shelter by 6:00 p.m., or just come to help serve at 6:30 p.m. Please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080544AAAC22A1F58-57656574-august>.
- **St. Andrew at Munhall Main Street Market Night – August 22nd, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** – St. Andrew will have a booth at Munhall’s Main Street Market Night to meet our neighbors and share information about the church and our welcoming commitments as a Reconciling in Christ congregation. August’s Market Night is on the 22nd, from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Please see Kelly Spaninger or Kathy Hays if you would like to participate.
- **Records Update - Please Respond** – St. Andrew is looking to update our records with information from newer attendees, as well as offering current members the opportunity to include current information. This includes name, preferred pronouns, email, phone number, birthdays, anniversaries, and more. The information will only be used within the congregation - for example to acknowledge celebrations and milestones in worship, in the prayers of the church, or in the weekly newsletter. Please fill out the form at: <https://forms.gle/kKvp19UozuRrhhaV7>.
- ***Unveiling the Lamb: Hope, Resistance, and the Church in Revelation* – Zoom Study Led by The Rev. Dr. Martin Rafanan, Continues Thursdays, July 31st - August 21st** – Pastor Martin Rafanan has invited the people of St. Andrew to a Zoom study he is leading with PLUM – Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries. It began last Thursday, and continues each week, July 31st – August 21st: “Join us for a 5-session Zoom-based Bible study that explores the Book of Revelation not as a roadmap of fear, but as a bold unveiling of Jesus Christ. In a world of empire, confusion, and compromise, this vision from exile speaks hope and courage to the Church. Each session blends scriptural teaching, theological reflection, pastoral insight, and visual exploration.” To receive the link, please register here: [Google Registration Form](https://forms.gle/JmbuU7RncG34auJs8): <https://forms.gle/JmbuU7RncG34auJs8>
- ***Christ in Our Home* Devotional Booklets for July-September Available at Entrances** – This resource offers a daily Bible reading with a short reflection and prayer, along with additional readings and prayer topics for those who would like to expand their devotional practices. We encourage people of the congregation to take one for yourself, your family/household, or others.