



# Confirmation Sunday

August 7, 2022 | 11 am



St. John's Lutheran Church | Salisbury, NC

# Welcome to St. John's

*We're so glad God has brought you here!*

**Confirmation Sunday.** This morning, seven youth will make public profession of their faith and lay claim to their baptismal promises. In baptism, we are welcomed into the covenant God first established with Abraham, the age-old reminder that God has taken the first step in our relationship with Him. In Confirmation — also known as Affirmation of Baptism — we say “yes” to that covenant relationship and agree to bear the image of Christ to all the world.

At St. John's and throughout most of the ELCA, Confirmation Sunday is the culmination of a two-year process of faith formation, which includes classwork, servant projects, retreats, and a week-long confirmation camp. Throughout the summer, our students have been preparing the faith statements that you will hear today — publicly stating “Why Jesus is central in my life.”

**Confirmands:** Samuel Goodman, Kaitlyn Losh, Aiden Moss, Connor Towns, Meredith Williams, Cora Wymbys, Gabriel Young

What a blessing to welcome these young men and women into the life of faith!

**Council nominations**—are due Sept. 15 by 5 pm. <https://stjohns-salisbury.org/about/congregation-council-form/>

*Please be advised:* Today's worship service is being live-streamed for our online community. For those who desire not to be part of the video stream, seating is available in the balcony and along the last 2 pews of the sanctuary's main level.

## Churchwide Retreat

Join us Sept. 23-25 for a fun-filled family weekend at Lutheridge. Use the QR Code below to register.



## Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Interested in walking where Jesus walked? Use the QR code below to register.



## Giving

Thank you for your gifts to God's Work through St. John's. Give online by using this QR Code.





# Gathering

## Prelude

*O God Beyond All Praising*

Gustav Holst, Arr. Stephen Nelson and Marshal McDonald  
Kevin Agner, Cello and Janie Rollins, Piano

## Prayers of Confession

*Worship begins as we confess our sins. For Luther, confession was a daily discipline, during which we confess those sins that are “known and those left unknown.” He encouraged us to begin by making the sign of the cross as a reminder that Christ has freed us from our sin.*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for You alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

## God’s Promise of Forgiveness

In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God: you are forgiven of all your sins, in the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Entrance Hymn 824

*This is My Father’s World*

TERRA PATRIS

*See page 10 of this bulletin or hymn 824 in the red worship book.*

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



# Affirmation of Baptism

**Welcome, Presentation, and Prayer.** *The confirmands are presented by Rosalind Hines, Vice President of our Congregation Council.*

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank You for these sisters and brothers, whom You have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom You have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

## Introduction to the Confirmands' Statements of Faith

**Reading:** Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16

*Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.*

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

<sup>13</sup>All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup>for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, He has prepared a city for them.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Congregational Response: *Here I Am, Lord* (verse 1)**

**"I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"**

*Refrain*

***Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.***

**Statement of Faith:** *Aiden Moss* Phillipians 4:13

<sup>13</sup>I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

**Statement of Faith:** *Meredith Williams* Proverbs 3:5-6

<sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.

<sup>6</sup>In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.

**Statement of Faith:** *Cora Wymbs* Proverbs 16:24

<sup>24</sup>Pleasant words are like a honeycomb,  
sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

**Congregational Response: *Here I Am, Lord* (verse 2)**

**"I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my Word to hem. Whom shall I send?"**

*Refrain*

***Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.***

**Statement of Faith:** *Gabriel Young* Romans 5:5

<sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

**Statement of Faith:** *Samuel Goodman* 1 Chronicles 16:34

<sup>34</sup>O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;  
for His steadfast love endures forever.

**Congregational Response:** *Here I Am, Lord* (verse 3)

**"I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"**

*Refrain*

***Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.***

**Statement of Faith:**

*Kaitlyn Losh*

Philippians 4:6-7

<sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Statement of Faith:**

*Connor Towns*

Proverbs 27:17

<sup>17</sup>Iron sharpens iron,  
and one person sharpens another.

**Congregational Response:** *Refrain to Here I am Lord*

***Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.***

**The Profession of Faith**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

*The confirmands gather around the water of baptism as the presiding minister invites them to accept the responsibilities made on their behalf when they were baptized.*

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*Each confirmand responds: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

*The minister addresses the congregation:*

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

**Blessing.** *Confirmands and parents gather at the altar for the laying on of hands and a blessing.*

Stir up in *Samuel, Kaitlyn, Aiden, Connor, Meredith, Cora, and Gabriel* the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

*Those making public affirmation stand and face the congregation.*

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.  
Together we will give thanks and praise to God  
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

**Choral Response**

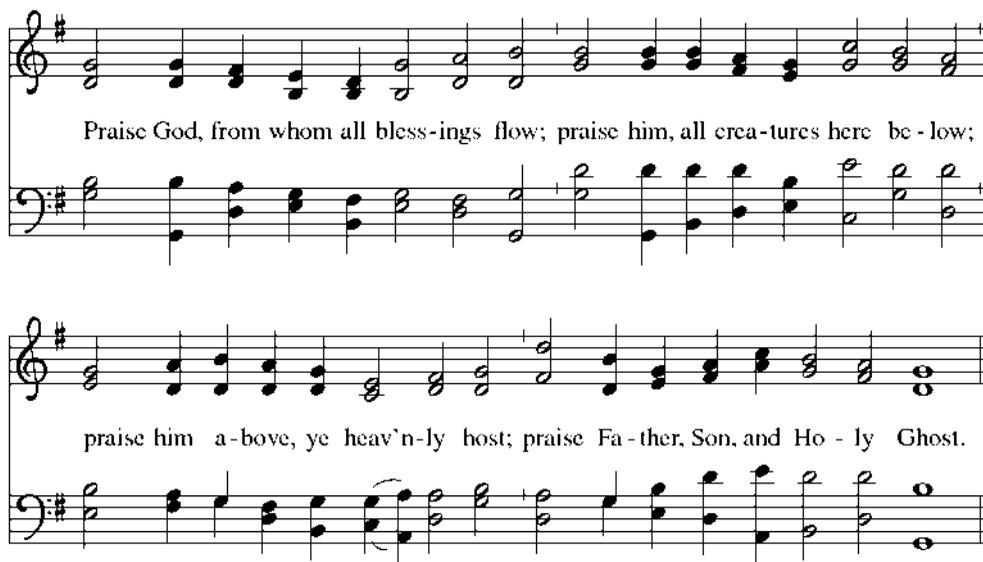
*A Future With Hope*  
(from Jeremiah 29:13-19)  
St. John's Chancel Choir

by Mark Burrows

**Sharing the Peace of Christ:** *We make peace with our sisters and brothers in Christ, sharing the words "Peace be with you."*

**Collection of our tithes and offerings**

**Offertory Hymn** *As the gifts are presented, the congregation stands and sings the Doxology:*



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;  
praise him a -bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.



*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise. ... And join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n 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, followed by *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;  
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.**

**Distribution of Holy Communion.** *All the baptized are welcome to receive God's gift of grace through the sacrament of Holy Communion. We commune by intinction (dipping the bread into the wine) at the front of the sanctuary. Proceed down the middle aisle, following the ushers' instructions, and return to your seat by the side aisles. Those not communing are invited forward for a spoken blessing.*

### Communion Hymns

### *Lamb of God*

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, grant us peace.

**Hymn 154**  
**Hymn 481**  
**Piano Meditation**  
**Hymn 674**

*Lamb of God*  
*Come to the Table*  
Janie Rollins  
*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

*Communion hymns are found in the red worship book (ELW), unless otherwise indicated.*



## Sending

### Benediction

**Sending Hymn 543**

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

AR HYD Y NOS

*See page 11 of this bulletin or hymn 543 in the red worship book.*

**Dismissal** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

### Postlude

Unless otherwise indicated, today's service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship and is reproduced by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies annual license # 26999.

## This Is My Father's World

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all  
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the  
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,

na-ture sings, and round me rings the mu-sic of the spheres.  
morn-ing light, the lil-y white, de-clare their mak-er's praise.  
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul-er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of  
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the  
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won-ders wrought.  
rus-tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.  
Lord is king, let heav-en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901

Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

## Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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## Worship Participants

**CONFIRMANDS:** Samuel Goodman, Kaitlyn Losh, Aiden Moss, Connor Towns, Meredith Williams, Cora Wymbs, Gabriel Young

**CRUCIFER:** Millie Wymbs

**SOUND:** Mike Agee

**VIDEO:** Taylor Hutchins

**PERCUSSION:** Davis Brown

## Altar Flowers

**ALTAR FLOWERS** — Flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of our Confirmands and their Instructors, by Brenda and Franco Goodman.

## Join Us In Prayer For The Following:

**CONDOLENCES** — Families of Fran Hoke, Thomas Hurlocker, Hal Furr and Ellen Fink

**THIS WEEK'S PRAYER CONCERNS** — Davey Rhodes, Norman Sloop, Janie Ali, Bobbie Ann Brown, Gerald Jones, Rudy Boksleitner

**ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS** — Steve Albanese, Larry Cartner, Jim Rabon, Reggie Munday

Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*

