

**LIVING AS RESURRECTED PEOPLE BEFORE WE DIE  
FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE (1 CORINTHIANS 13:13)**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wonderful works.**

Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually.**

Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,  
O offspring of his servant Abraham,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones. (Psalm 105:1-6)

**OPENING PRAYER**

Dear Lord,  
faith is a gift from You  
and our response to You  
as God.

Faith is  
what gives us vision to see  
the Holy amidst the ordinary.

Faith is not  
ours but shared amongst believers  
from days past until the end of all days.

Our God,  
give us true faith to sustain us  
as we live for You day by day,  
O Loving Lord

(Source: <https://mwerickson.com/2020/07/27/a-prayer-inspired-by-hebrews-111-3/>)

## **HYMN**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Loving Father, I can be so entrenched in my own thinking that sometimes I doubt Your Word and question Your promises, often wishing I had some concrete 'proof' of Your love for me – and yet Your Word gives me all the affirmation of this absolute reality I need – for Your Word and Promises are sure and Your faithfulness stretches beyond the limits of time and space. Thank You for the gift of faith, and I pray that day by day my loving trust in You and the reality of Your Word will become increasingly established within my heart – for I long to please You in all I say and do and am. It is Jesus' name I pray, AMEN. (Source: <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/Hebrews/11/1>)

### **SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 11.1-12.3 (excerpted)**

**11** Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for.

<sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. [vss 4-5 list Abel and Enoch]

<sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. [vss. 7-12 list Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Jacob]

<sup>13</sup> All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. <sup>14</sup> People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. [vss. 17-38 list Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses' parents, Moses, Israel crossing the Red Sea, Joshua, Rahab, and many who are unnamed]

<sup>39</sup> These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

### **SERMON**

### **HYMN**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. I will lift up a prayer, and pause for a time of silence. You are invited to lift up a person or situation in need of prayer either silently or in the comments, after which I will say “Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.”

Grant, almighty God,  
that all who confess your name may be united in your truth,  
live together in your love and reveal your glory in the world.  
*Silent prayer or share a need in the comments.*  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations,  
in the ways of justice and peace;  
that we may honor one another and serve the common good.  
*Silent prayer or share a need in the comments.*  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation,  
that we may use its resources rightly

in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silent prayer or share a need in the comments.*

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours,  
and grant that we may serve Christ in them,  
and love one another as Christ loves us.

*Silent prayer or share a need in the comments.*

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;  
give them courage and hope in their troubles,  
and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silent prayer or share a need in the comments.*

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died,  
that your will for them may be fulfilled;  
and we pray that we may share with all your saints  
in your eternal kingdom

*Silent prayer or share a need in the comments.*

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We offer these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us how to pray  
saying

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

Amen.

### **OFFERING**

As God has blessed our lives with abundant love and gifts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to this place, seeking to help others, to offer comfort and hope. Let us receive our morning offering.

### **Two Ways to Give:**

Online giving at <https://www.solomonsumchurch.org/online-giving/>  
Mail offering to PO Box 403 Solomons MD 20688

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Lord of all mercy and compassion, bless these gifts lovingly offered and all the people here. Help us to use these gifts for ministries of hope through our church and into our community, nation and world. AMEN.

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Surrounded by a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us come to God to strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. (Source: <https://katyandtheword.com/2019/08/06/summer-hebrews-series-5-hebrews-111-16-121-2-matthew-85-10-for-narrative-lectionary-august-11-2019/>)

### **HYMN**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, too often we are distracted by all that happens around us—and to us. We take our eyes off you, and then struggle even more. Forgive us. Fix our eyes--and our faith--upon you. (Silent Confession)

(Source: Barb Hedges-Goettl; Confession of Faith adapted from Westminster Confession of Faith, 1647/1958)

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God's plan is that the faith of those commended for their faith and our faith come together to make one completed whole. Thanks be to God for the Good News of

shared grace: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. (Source: <https://katyandtheword.com/2019/08/06/summer-hebrews-series-5-hebrews-111-16-121-2-matthew-85-10-for-narrative-lectionary-august-11-2019/>)

## **LOVE FEAST**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Q. What is true faith?

**A. True faith is**

**not only a knowledge and conviction  
that everything God reveals in his Word is true;  
it is also a deep-rooted assurance,  
created in me by the Holy Spirit through the gospel,  
that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ,  
not only others, but I too,  
have had my sins forgiven,  
have been made forever right with God,  
and have been granted salvation.**

Q. What then must a Christian believe?

**A. Everything God promises us in the gospel.**

**That gospel is summarized for us  
in the articles of our Christian faith—  
a creed beyond doubt,  
and confessed throughout the world.**

Q. What are these articles?

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended to heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there 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.**

(Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 21, 22, 23)

### **BENEDICTION**