



Welcome to the Congregational Church on Mercer Island

We strive to be a forward-looking community.

Where God is all-loving and inclusive.

Where people are welcomed and accepted as they are.

Where our minds are nourished as much as our souls.

Where Jesus the healer meets Jesus the revolutionary.

Where together we grow a just and peaceful world.

**ALL HYMNS INCLUDED AT THE END OF THIS
BULLETIN**

Sunday, September 27, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Yuan Zhou

Introit

The Storm is Passing Over C. Tindley. Arr. B. W. Baker

Call to Worship

Rev. Jennifer Castle

Come, you who are carrying questions about what comes next.

We come, trusting that we do not walk alone.

Come, you who are afraid, uncertain, or standing at the edge of something new.

We come, knowing that courage does not mean the absence of fear.

God does not promise that the way will always be easy.

But God promises to walk with us on the way.

So let us worship the God who calls us forward

and gives us courage for the journey. Amen.

Opening Hymn

#464 God of Grace and God of Glory (verses 1, 4, & 5)

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Jennifer Castle

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Jennifer Castle

Hymn

#595 Be Thou My Vision (Verses 1, 2, & 4)

Scripture Reading

Joshua 1: 1-9

Read by Teddy Fields

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses's assistant, saying, "My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall lead this people to possess the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way

prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Reading

Excerpt from *A Blessing for Courage* by Kate Bowler
Read by Teddy Fields

God, I have no idea what courage is or where to get any, but I really need it.
Help me in my fear.

Blessed are we who say, God, fear is taking up too much space and I have little bandwidth left. If courage is a gift, then please give it. And if it is a thing for me to do, then show me how that goes.

Blessed are we who say, thank you God, that You speak through Your Word, through others, and you even speak through fear - that strange friend who tells us important things for our good. But it can't tell us everything. It is but a sentinel, and not our heart's home. Sit, and let your fear speak. Sit longer, and let your heart take courage.

Sermon

“Becoming Courageous”

Rev. Jennifer Castle

Anthem

Be Not Afraid

Craig Courtney

Prayers

**Our Creator, 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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn

#452

Here I Am, Lord

Blessing

Rev. Jennifer Castle

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, 10:30 am – Bible Study via Zoom

Thursdays, 7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal – ALL WELCOME

Thursdays, 10:30 am until Nov 12 – Women's Bible Study

Oct 3, 8:30 am – Men's Breakfast

Oct 10, 9:00 am – Women's Breakfast

Oct 21, 8:30 am – Book Talk via Zoom

Oct 24, 10:00 am – Wild Church

Oct 25, 11:45 am – Council Meeting

PLEASE NOTE THAT CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE UPSTAIRS

Bring your children up, we'd love to look after them during worship!

To make a gift to the church, scan the QR code below with the camera on your smartphone and you will be directed to the appropriate link on the church website. Thank you!



Pastor

Music Director

Administrator

Rev. Jennifer Castle

Deeji Killian

Janet Morris

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God of Grace and God of Glory 464

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3. Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; fill our lives that
 5. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

1. pour thy power; crown thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 2. sail thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us,
 3. thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 4. we may be strength - ened with all Christ - like gra - ces
 5. we de - plore; let the search for thy sal - va - tion

1. bring its bud - to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 2. free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 3. rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 4. pledged to set all cap - tives free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 5. be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

1. for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 2. for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 3. lest we miss thy righ - teous goal, lest we miss thy righ - teous goal.
 4. lest we fail our call from thee, lest we fail our call from thee.
 5. serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

WORDS: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 87.87.877

Alt. tune: REGENT SQUARE

Be Thou My Vision

595

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

thou my best thought by day or by night,
 thou my re - deem - er, my love thou hast won,
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

WORDS: Irish song (8th century); tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.

MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1963

Harm. © 1964 The United Methodist Publishing House

SLANE
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452

Here I Am, Lord

*Unison*

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry.
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in deep - est sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them, they turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro- vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

WORDS: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981

MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981; harm. James Snyder, 1994

HERE I AM, LORD

77.74 w. refrain

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♩=110

MINISTRY



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Harmony



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the



night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will



hold your peo-ple in my heart. heart.
 heart, in my heart.
 heart, in my heart.