



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, August 9, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Prelude Yuan Zhou

Introit Peace Be Still Hope Darst

Call to Worship Rev. Jennifer Castle

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens.”

We come seeking rest for our souls.

We come carrying the weight of expectations, responsibilities, and worries.

We come trusting that we do not have to carry them alone.

Jesus invites us to take up a different yoke—a yoke shaped by love and grace.

Today we receive the gift of Sabbath. Today we rest in God’s presence.

Opening Hymn #53 Morning Has Broken

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Jennifer Castle

Passing of the Peace Rev. Jennifer Castle

Hymn #259 Spirit of the Living God

Reading Matthew 11: 28-30 Read by Diane Calvert

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Reading Excerpt from *A Blessing for When You Feel Like the World Rests on Your Shoulders* by Kate Bowler Read by Diane Calvert

God, I know that what I am trying to carry is far too much, but I don’t know what else to do. O God help me.

God have mercy. Christ have mercy. Spirit have mercy.

Blessed are we who say, Jesus, I’m taking You at Your word. I am coming to You just as I am, almost worn out, craving rest, but still tempted to keep going like I always do, propelled from one task to the next as if the world depended on it. But I know this can’t go on, for this kind of energy is a harsh driver.

Blessed are we, quietly closing the door, willing to fold ourselves into the small space that is the present moment, and trust that it is Your desire, o God, that we

no longer be driven, but led.

So God, slow me down. Place Your hand on me and calm the beating of my heart, deepen my breathing and quiet my mind so I can catch up with myself, and feel what I feel, know what I know, and remember whose world it is that is holding me up, and not the other way around.

Suddenly it is the truest thing in the world that this small enclosure with You here is the spacious place where little is enough, and I know in a new way that not everything has to be done, and not everything has to be done by me. I begin to see that it is my limits as well as my gifts that can shape the natural contours of what is mine to hold, and mine to do.

God have mercy. Christ have mercy. Spirit have mercy.

Depend on it. God will take care of all that you can't. And you too, dear one.

Sermon	"The Rest We Cannot Earn"	Rev. Jennifer Castle
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Anthem	Bridge Over Troubled Water	Simon & Garfunkel
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Prayers		Rev. Jennifer Castle
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Loving Creator we honor you, and we honor all that you have made. Renew the whole world in the image of your love. Give us what we need for today, and a hunger to see the whole world fed. Strengthen us for what lies ahead; heal us from the hurts of the past; give us courage to follow your call in this moment. For your love is the only power, the only home, the only honor we need, in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

Closing Hymn		You Are Mine
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Blessing		Rev. Jennifer Castle
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Upcoming Events:

Aug 19, 8:30 am – Book Talk with Suzanne

Aug 19, 6:30 pm – Wild Church

Aug 23, after service – Council Meeting

Aug 30, after service – Sandwich making for Operation Nightwatch

Sep 6, 10:30 am – Holy Communion ALL WELCOME

Sep 12, 9:00 am – Women's Breakfast

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

53

Morning Has Broken

1. Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing, black-bird has
 2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun-lit from heav - en, like the first
 3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing-ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev-ery

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

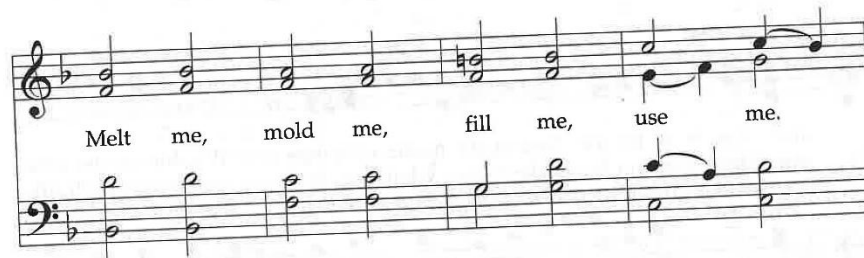
WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931
 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

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 arr. © 1987 CRC Publications

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259

Spirit of the Living God



WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

LIVING GOD
75.75.875

© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music, a div. of The Sparrow Corp.

649 You Are Mine

Verses

1. I will come to you in the si-lence.
 2. I am hope for all who are hope-less.
 3. I am strength for all the des-pair-ing.
 4. am the Word that leads all to free-dom.

I will lift you from all your fear. In the
 I am eyes for all who long to see.
 heal-ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can-not give.

You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. be
 shad-ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em-brac-ing all your pain, stand

still and know I am here. (To verse 2)
 come and rest in me. (To refrain)
 all will know my name. (To refrain)
 up, now walk, and live! (To refrain)

Refrain

Do not be a-fraid, I am with you.

I have called you each by name. Come and fol-low me,

I will bring you home; I love you and you are

mine. 4. 1