ROSLYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
140 EAST BROADWAY
ROSLYN, NEW YORK

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 10:00 AM

"What is a "church," anyway? At its heart, it's a community on a mission: to sing, and to listen, and to give – not only to each other, but also to the wider world God calls us to love."

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GATHERING IN COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE/WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE PRAISE OUR GOD

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

One: Give thanks to God for he is Holy, for God is worthy of praise.
Many: We will tell of God's name, making known God's works.
One: Give thanks to God and Seek the Lord continually.
Many: We will be attentive long enough to watch and listen for those wonderful signs of God's amazing grace.
One: Together let us worship God, this Lord's Day.
All: We will rejoice in God's presence to praise God's name.

* HYMN: 145 (Blue Hymnal) *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all creation, you open the world around us and fill it with creatures of your love and purpose. The wonder of each creature declares your praise – the mountains state your majesty; the ripened field, your generosity; the oceans, your power and the skies, your grandeur. Birds flying aloft sing of your freedom; the tiny ant works with your persistence. And what do we declare about you in our lives? May we praise you, O God, not just in this hour of worship, but in all our waking and our working of each day. May we live well enough to echo your mercy and praise. Amen.

ANTHEM: *Let Heavenly Music Fill This Place* Young

Let heavenly music fill this place and all the harmonies of heaven be heard; Let one grand song of praise resound, one alleluia! Let mighty organs peal and roll and choirs invisible be heard; Let anthems grand now thrill my soul, one alleluia! O may we join the heavenly choir that through the ages will sing on; In praise to Father and to son, one alleluia! One alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION/PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Today as our Jewish friends remember Yom Kippur at sunset tonight, we pray as well for our awareness of Jesus' atonement and what that means for us as well. Together we ask for your forgiveness, and learn to mend and heal this earth as we celebrate the freedom from our sins, and may our work, as we will hear in the Gospel, honor your grace, justice and mercy. May our relationships speak of your love and compassion. God, you are the giver of all good gifts, yet our generosity is often limited. We complain about our lot. We compare ourselves to others and see what they have and what we lack. We share some of what we have, but we worry too often about running short. Forgive us our worries about tomorrow, and give us generous hearts that trust in You day by day.

(Please take a moment for silent reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* GLORIA PATRI 579 (Blue Hymnal) *Glory Be to the Father*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end Amen, Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

("*" invites all who are able to stand. **Bold** indicates reading or *singing* in unison.)

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

All: Holy God, your thoughts are not our thoughts, and your ways are not our ways. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed, guide us by your Spirit, so that our thoughts and our ways are transformed by your grace, through Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 1:21-30 (NRSV)

21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 If I am to live in the
flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will
choose. 23 I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart
and be with Christ, for that is far better, 24 but to remain in the flesh is
more necessary for you. 25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I
will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in
faith, 26 so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might
abound in Christ Jesus because of me. 27 Only, live your life in a
manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see
you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing
firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of
the gospel 28 and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For
them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And
this is God's doing. 29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege
not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, 30 since
you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that
I still have.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 20:1-16 (NRSV)

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in
the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the
laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard.
3 When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in
the marketplace, 4 and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard,
and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. 5 When he went
out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 6 And
about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and
he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' 7 They said
to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go
into the vineyard.' 8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard
said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay,
beginning with the last and then going to the first.' 9 When those hired
about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. 10 Now
when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each
of them also received a denarius. 11 And when they received it, they
grumbled against the landowner, 12 saying, 'These last worked only
one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the
burden of the day and the scorching heat.' 13 But he replied to one of
them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for
a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this
last the same as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose
with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?'
16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord
People: Glory to You, O God

MESSAGE *The Evil Eye…Let the head of the household be aware*
Taking out the treasure or the trash
Discerning what is new and what is old
The Rev. Dr. James Barnum

The word translated "landowner" is *oikodespotes*, "head of household." It's the same term Matthew uses at the end of an earlier chapter packed with parables: "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household [oikodespotes] who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old" (Matthew 13:52). Thus the word is meant to connote a wise and generous authority.

* HYMN: 553 (Red Hymnal) *Nearer, My God, to Thee*

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FROM MATTHEW'S GOSPEL

Like last week's reading, this is a parable about what "the kingdom of heaven" is like. Its central point, then, isn't economic or moral; rather, it's meant to evoke and illustrate the realm of God, the new way of life that has "come near" (Matthew 4:17).

In the parable, a householder hires laborers for his vineyard at several times over the course of a day, and ultimately compensates them all with the typical daily wage (one denarius), paying the latest arrivals first. This causes consternation among the early-arrivers — which they express, as "grumbling" not that they ought to be paid more, but rather that the late-arrivers ought to be paid less: "you have made them equal to us" (Matthew 20:11-12)

The householder will have none of this. The NRSV, our pew Bible, translates his response as "are you envious?", but the Greek is literally, "is your eye evil?" Jesus uses this "evil eye" idiom one other time in Matthew, in the Sermon on the Mount: "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy [literally, 'if your eye is evil'], your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!" (Matthew 6:22-23).

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS FOR PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND OUR 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Generous God, you are the source of all good things, of life itself and all that sustains it. Bless the gifts we offer and the gifts of fellow Presbyterians this day. By your Spirit, multiply their impact to support your purposes in the world you love in the name of Christ, our Savior and Friend. Amen.

* HYMN: 340 (Red Hymnal) *Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus*

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL *Go Now in Peace*
Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen, Amen, Amen.

POSTLUDE

THE WORSHIP IS OVER, LET THE SERVICE BEGIN

Rev. Dr. James Barnum	Pastor
Dr. Gary de Sesa	Director, Ministry of Music
Dr. Natalie Naylor	Clerk of Session
Dr. Robert Gilmore	Treasurer

Kita de Sesa is our Soprano soloist.

Assisting in today's service is Ira Cooper.

Refreshments Host for today is Natalie Naylor.

Next Sunday's scriptures:
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Helen Lockman	Cynthia Randall
Steve Kirschman	Dawn and John de Sesa
Gary B. de Sesa	Sam Rizzo
Emmie Shoch	Regina Maria
Ray Peres	Gerry Catalanello
Sylvia McAdams	Stefania Cecchini
Family of Steven Panzella	Family of Janine Francolini
Chet Scire	William Cornell
Lawrence Topel	Willy Geddish
Jasmina & Jaiden Allen	Paula Liscio
Dr. Klaus Dittmar	

We pray for PEACE in the world and especially the Middle East and a just resolution between Iran and our country; Ukraine and Russia; along with all victims and their families from the Gaza/Lebanon-Israeli conflict and all nations that are at war. We pray for all families who are in need, and those who are grieving their loved ones.