

Worship Service ~ *Secret Criminals of the Bible*

August 30, 2026 - Pentecost 14, Year A,

Matthew 25:34-40 / Philippians 1:12-14 /

Acts 5:17-21a / Luke 4:18-19 (NSRV)

Prelude

played by church musician Annie Center,

Gathering Together

Welcome

Good morning, my name is *Audrey DeCoursey*. It's my pleasure to welcome you to worship with Olympic View Community Church.

Please stand with as you are able, and hear the Lord call us into worship.

Call to Worship ~

One: God has promised a new heavens and new earth.

All: There, the former things are forgotten and all things are made new.

One: In God's promised world, there is hope for justice and peace among all peoples.

All: May our eyes be opened to the promised future as we celebrate God's faithful presence with us this day.

Invocation

Awesome God, you created the world and all that is in it. You blessed each element of creation with your love. You called us from slavery into witness and service. Be with us this day as we gather to worship. Clear our minds of all the distractions which would draw us away from you. Open our hearts and spirits and let your healing and empowering love flow in. Prepare us to be witnesses to your power and love as we use the gifts with which you have blessed us in your service. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Amazing Grace ~ #143

Engaging with God Together

Scripture Reading ~ Matthew 25:34-40 / Philippians 1:12-14

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Philippians 1:12-14

I want you to know, beloved, that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear.

Let's greet one another with the peace of Christ as we pass the peace.

Pass the Peace

Sharing Announcements and Prayer Requests by worship leader

In a moment we are going to pray together, but before we do, does anyone have any announcements to share about anything in the life of the church coming up? Does anyone have any joys or concerns to share?

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer by guest pastor

Hymn

Brothers and Sisters of Mine ~ #142

Hearing the Word Together

Sermon Passage ~ Acts 5:17-21a / Luke 4:18-19

Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), being filled with jealousy, arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said, 'Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life.' When they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and went on with their teaching.

When the high priest and those with him arrived, they called together the council and the whole body of the elders of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

Luke 4:18-19

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

Sermon ~ *Secret Criminals of the Bible* - Rev. Audrey DeCoursey

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Responding to the Word Together

Call to Serve

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed that God's house is "a house of prayer for all peoples." And it is in such a place where offerings are acceptable to God. Here, in this place of extravagant welcome, may our offerings of time, energy, money, resources, skills, hope, and prayer be lifted up to our God. May they be discerned for the good that ripples out beyond this space, and may the faith that gives us life be felt by all who are here.

As we listen to this interlude played by Annie, let's give some thought to how we might practice more radical welcome in our own lives.

A Time for Reflection Played by church musician Annie Center,

Closing Hymn *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy ~ #145*

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Short prayer by pastor

Postlude played by church musician Annie Center,

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