

13th Sunday of Pentecost – August 23, 2026

Gathering Music: “Joshua!” – arr. Hascall

Welcome

Invitation to the Season

Prayer

Song: “Come to the Water” (p.18)

Remembering Who We Are

All: God of all creation, you love us into being, yet we often flee our
rightful place in your creation. We confess that we exploit the gifts
You place around us, and dominate the richness of the natural order.
Forgive our greediness. Amen

Remembering Who God Is

Song: “Water, River, Spirit, Grace” (p.16)

Children’s Time – Blessing of the Backpacks

Scripture Readings: Matthew 13:1-9, 10-13, 18-23

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God. **People:** Thanks be to God.

Contemporary Words

Generosity Moment

Special Music: “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” – Beethoven arr. Ingram

Prayers of the People

All: 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 as we forgive others. And let us not fall into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Song: “The Trees of the Field” (p.14)

Benediction

Leader: And all God’s people said,

All: Amen!

[Liturgy comes from Celebrate God’s Presence: Book of Service of The United Church of Canada, 2000.
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Leader: Church of the Apostles, what are we to do?

All: God's love guides us to welcome and include people as they are, serve compassionately, and champion environmental care and social justice.

Announcements

Passing of the Peace

Leader: You are not alone.

All: You are not alone.

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Sending Music: "My Life Is in You" – Gardner

Give Online Through Realm

Text 'COA' to 73256 with the amount you want to give

Prayers of Joy and Concern (as of printing on 8/19/2026)

Joys: Safe Summer Travels; Luane's Brother; Cole & Connor Kendig.

Concerns: Pat DiDomenico; West Coast Wildfires; Kit Mariah's Brother; Steve Daniels Sister; Friends & Family of Deborah Anne Klein-Smith & Lynn Steedle; Beth Lichty; Arlene's Friend; Terry Tice; Gaudio's Friends Son; Terry's Friend; Child w/ eye cancer; Rev Patty Dodds; Audrey's Friends; Gloria Stevens & Judy Jarvis; family and friends of Marie Wenner; the Bender family.

To add your prayers of joy and concern, email office@apostlesucc.org
or call 717-392-5718 ext. 8201

APOSTLE ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUGUST INCLUSIVE CHURCH FOCUS – Accessibility considerations as we age.

ACP SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION – Through the end of August, we'll be collecting school supplies such as glue sticks, tape, laminating sheets, and more. Check out the wish list on Amazon: conta.cc/4vWhZK9. Ship or drop off donations at the main church.

GRAND REVEAL – Members are invited to an extended fellowship and sanctuary grand reveal after worship on August 30th.

MOCKTAILS & MEANING – Data Centers in Lancaster with Darrell Lagace. Register on Realm or by emailing office@apostlesucc.org.

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