

John Knox Presbyterian Church

September 13, 2026

*Welcome! Please be seated and prepare
your hearts and minds for worship.*



In My Father's House are Many Rooms

Week Two
South Asia

This Week's Theme: God commands Israel to love the stranger as themselves because they know what it means to be strangers. Jesus pushes the question further: the person who proves to be a neighbor may be precisely the person we have been taught to regard with suspicion.

Peacemaking Question: Who have we been taught to see first as different—and only later, if at all, as a neighbor?

GATHERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

"Sakura (Cherry Blossoms)"

Traditional Japanese folk song, arr. R. Dittrich

Words of Welcome

*The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you.***

* Call to Worship

The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it.

The world and all who live in it belong to God.

God has made us from many peoples and places.

Yet every one of us is created and loved by God.

When the stranger lives among us, God says,

"Love them as yourself."

When we ask, "Who is my neighbor?"

Christ calls us to show mercy.

Come, let us worship the God who welcomes us.

Let us worship the God who calls us to

become neighbors to one another.

* Hymn

"O God of Every Nation"

#756

* Call to Confession

*** Unison Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, You have welcomed us with a love we did not earn. Yet we have failed to welcome others. We have allowed fear to shape our relationships. We have judged before we have listened. We have made assumptions about people we have never taken the time to know.

Forgive us when we cross to the other side rather than stopping to see the person in need. Forgive us when we allow differences of culture, religion, race, politics, or nationality to become reasons for suspicion or indifference. Forgive us when we ask, "Who is my neighbor?" when we should be asking, "How can I be a neighbor?"

Give us the courage to cross the boundaries fear has built. Open our eyes to the people we have failed to see. Open our hearts to show mercy. And make us, by Your grace, neighbors to one another. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

*** Responsive Assurance of Grace**

*The love of God crosses every boundary we have created.
Christ meets us on the road when we are wounded and afraid.
Christ comes to us not because we have earned mercy,
but because mercy is the heart of God.*

*In Jesus Christ, our sin is forgiven,
our lives are restored, and we are set free to love.
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:*

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

*** Sung Response**

"Glory be to the Father"

see handout or projection

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Leviticus 19: 33-34

Common English Bible

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Time with Our Young and Growing Ones

Second Reading Luke 10: 25-37

NRSVUE

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Maggie Lewis

*** Hymn**

"When the Poor Ones"

#762

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

Church and Community Life

Minute for Mission

World Communion Offering

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart”

The text of this hymn (seen in #427) was originally created in Pashto, which is the national language of Afghanistan as well as a provincial language of Pakistan and is spoken by more than fifty million people. The tune originated in the same area.

* Sung Response

“We Lift Our Voices”

#710

* Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Please remember to use first names only to protect the privacy of those for whom we offer prayers.

Response for congregational prayer:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

The Lord's Prayer

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

* Sending Song

“Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather”

#311

This gentle hymn was created for a 1958 international convention of Christian educators in Japan. The tune's use of the gagaku mode, originally from China but later limited to use in the Japanese court, serves as a subtle but significant affirmation of Christ's sovereignty.

* Charge and Benediction

Please be seated to enjoy the postlude

Postlude

“Jesus Saves”

Priscilla Owens

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis

Pianist: Melissa Terrall

Liturgist: Sheila Cunningham

Music Director: Anna Robinson

Church and Community Life

JESUS SAYS “In my Father's house are many rooms.”

We live in a world of many peoples, cultures, languages, nations, and faiths. Christians confess Jesus Christ as Lord, and yet we also confess that the earth belongs to God and that no nation, culture, or religious community can claim ownership of God.

Throughout Scripture, God's people repeatedly encounter neighbors whose beliefs and practices differ from their own. Sometimes those encounters lead to fear and conflict. But again and again, God calls God's people toward justice, hospitality, humility, and peace.

This series asks:

How do we remain deeply rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ while becoming better neighbors in God's many-roomed world?

Each week we will explore a different part of the world as we work on a different step in the process of answering this always-timely question.

Then, on World Communion Sunday, October 4, we will reflect on our answers and what actions we can take toward celebrating a global, connected Church, including participating

in the World Communion Special Offering. Racial justice, gender justice, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith engagement are the important causes supported by this offering.

Willamette Valley Pies orders are available for pickup today. If you didn't order a pie and now have regrets or think maybe you could use one or two more, chat with Sheila! There are extra pies available for purchase. All proceeds will be directed to support Congregations Helping People.

Looking Ahead

- Sept. 15** **6:30** Zoom with Alex Awad, a Palestinian American who lives in Eugene.
Eileen can email you with registration information.
- Sept. 17** **7:00** Session meeting via Zoom
- Sept. 20** **10:30** Worship with Christ Jar Offering
and birthday/anniversary celebration after worship
- Sept. 23** **4:30-6:30** Free Keizer Community Dinner at St. Edward's Catholic Church.
Held every month on the 4th Wednesday.
- Sept. 27** **10:30** Worship
- Oct. 4** **10:30** Worship - World Communion Sunday
Receive Special Offering
- Oct. 11** **10:30** Worship
After worship: Congregational meeting and election of officers

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

- Birthdays** **Sept. 5:** Linda G.
 Sept. 14: Janet A.
 Sept. 24: Glen C.
- Anniversaries** **Sept. 3:** Judi and Mike L.
 Sept. 27: Joan and Paul A.

This gathering of JKPC is occurring in the traditional land of the Kalapuya people. We offer our gratitude to the elders, past and present, who have stewarded it through the generations.

We are recording this service and it will be available on our website for two weeks.

John Knox Presbyterian Church (USA)

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