

John Knox Presbyterian Church

September 20, 2026

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



In My Father's House are Many Rooms

Week Three
Central and
South America

This Week's Peacemaking Question: If Week One asked us to recognize that the whole house belongs to God, and Week Two asked us to become neighbors, Week 3 can ask: What happens when we discover that someone has been living in a room we never bothered to enter?

GATHERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Words of Welcome

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

* Call to Worship

In God's house, there are many rooms.

And the whole house belongs to God.

There are stories we know and stories we have never heard.

There are voices we recognize and voices we have overlooked.

God gathers people from every nation, every language, every culture.

God's house is wider than our understanding.

**So let us open the door, listen with humility,
and make room for one another.**

* Hymn

"O Sing to the Lord"

#637

* Call to Confession

* Unison Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, you have made a world filled with peoples,
cultures, languages, stories, and ways of seeing.**

And yet we confess that we can be comfortable in our own room.

We know our stories.

We know our traditions.

We know what feels familiar.

**And sometimes we forget that your house
is bigger than our experience.**

Forgive us for the times we have failed to listen.
Forgive us when we have treated unfamiliar traditions
with suspicion rather than curiosity.
Forgive us when we have spoken about people
instead of listening to them.
Forgive us when we have overlooked voices
because they were not the voices we were
accustomed to hearing.

Teach us the humility of Paul, who entered
an unfamiliar place and paid attention.
Teach us to listen before we speak.
Teach us to learn before we judge.
Teach us to recognize the image of God in people
whose stories are different from our own.

Open the doors of our hearts.
Open the rooms of our understanding.
And lead us into the wider house of your love. Amen.

* Assurance of Grace

* Sung Response “Glory be to the Father” *see handout or projection*

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Isaiah 56: 6-8 NRSVUE
This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Time with Our Young and Growing Ones

Second Reading Acts 10: 24-48 The Inclusive Bible
This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon Rev. Maggie Lewis/Eileen Sheelar

* Hymn “Help Us Accept Each Other” #754

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 “O God, We Bear the Imprint” Shirley Erena Murray
 Adam and Anna Robinson and Margaret R. Tucker

* Sung Response “We Lift Our Voices” #710

* Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Response for congregational prayer: *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

The Lord's Prayer

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

* **Sending Song** "Song of Hope/Canto de Esperanza" #765 English, then Spanish

* **Charge and Benediction**

Please be seated to enjoy the postlude

Postlude

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis

Guest Pianist: Adam Robinson

Liturgists: Doug Anderson and Eileen Sheelar

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. 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.

PRAYERS for Pastor Maggie, Bronwyn, and everyone else who is experiencing COVID, flu, colds, and other illnesses as our season moves from summer to fall, and from outdoors activities to indoor gatherings.

CELEBRATE the people with September birthdays and anniversaries during social hour today.

CHRIST JAR OFFERING received today supports Congregations Helping People. Once a month, on the third Sunday, we gather coins (and we'll take paper money and checks, too!) to support this organization that contributes toward meeting emergency needs of our Salem-Keizer neighbors. If you want to know more about what they do or what you can do to help, please talk with Sheila.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY PIES UPDATE

Sheila reports that so far, **\$897** has been raised for Congregations Helping People far through pie sales. There are a few more pies available for purchase:

For \$10 each, 8 or 9" pies:	For \$7 each, 5" pies:
3 cherry pies	4 marionberry pies
7 pumpkin pies	17 apple pies
3 peach marionberry pies	
1 peach pie	
4 caramel apple crumble	

Contact Sheila by text or email with your order and she will have the pies here for you next Sunday, Sept. 27. You can give the money to Bronwyn or the counters at that time.

SESSION NOTES

Eileen Sheelar, Clerk

Session met via Zoom on Thursday evening, Sept. 17.

We discussed how stewardship is a year-round activity and how it is put into practice every week at JKPC.

Revised bylaws will be distributed Sept. 27, two weeks before the congregational meeting on October 11, including an explanation of the proposed changes.

Pastor Maggie has attended two different continuing education conferences, one on inclusion and one with a Palestinian Christian speaking on the war in Palestine.

We discussed various upcoming events and closed with prayer.

Looking Ahead

- 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 to elect officers
and vote on revised bylaws

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.

John Knox Presbyterian Church (USA)

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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.