



KENILWORTH UNION  
CHURCH

**Kenilworth Union Church**  
**Twenty-ninth Week in Ordinary Time**  
**October 19, 2021 at 12:15 p.m.**

[Connect to Mid-Day Prayer Here](#)

*God hears the quietest sigh from the most broken of hearts because that's where God resides:  
Both in the heart & in the sigh...* Mark Gladman

**Opening Response**

Resources for Ordinary Time

Leader: God of the still small voice,  
You speak to us when we least expect it:

**All: We hear your voice in the moments of chaos, clutter and uncertainty.**

Leader: Jesus-Calmer of the storms,  
Your very presence comforts us:

**All: We are upheld by your quiet authority.**

Leader: Spirit Counselor,  
Carrier of our pain and celebrations

**All: We gather under your cloak of soft down and sharp flight-feathers.**

Leader: We feel the flutterings of new birth.

**Psalm Reading**

Psalm 104:1–9, 24, 35

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment.

**You stretch out the heavens like a tent, you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.**

You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken. You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At your rebuke they flee; at the sound of your thunder, they take to flight.

**They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys to the place that you appointed for them. You set a boundary that they may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.**

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

**Praise the Lord!**

**Scripture Reading**

Ephesians 2:4–10

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.

And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you?

You want something and do not have it; so, you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot

obtain it; so, you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist evil, and it will flee from you.

Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

### **A Connected Church**

Quinn G. Caldwell

“Sorry,” I said sheepishly as I slid a pile of books and my card across the desk. “I just returned something *very* late the other day. I’m sure I owe you a bunch.”

“Let’s see,” said the librarian, tapping away on the computer. “Yes, I see you returned something late. No charge.”

“What? It was like two months overdue!”

“We don’t have late fees anymore.”

“But...but, how are you going to balance your budget?!?” I spluttered.

She shrugged. “We want people to use the library more than we want the money.”

“But...”

I should have been elated at dodging the hit to my wallet. Instead, I was arguing for fines as if I had any idea how this or any library’s budget works. The briefest moment of curiosity and research would have revealed the disproportionate effects that library fines have on those who need free services the most, would have shown what a tiny fraction of most libraries’ budgets late fees represent.

But I’d been marinating in a culture of punishment, of prisons and fines and spankings and fees, for too long. I wasn’t ready for a world that loved people more than revenge. I couldn’t accept the freedom she was offering with both hands. I demanded punishment.

The librarian was having none of it. Eyeing the line lengthening behind me, she handed me my books with a firm smile. “You’re always welcome to make a donation if you’re worried about the budget,” she said. And then, like a prophet of the Lord seeing a future I wasn’t yet ready for: “Otherwise, no penalties.”

### **Prayers of the People**

O God of grace, how manifold are your works! We gather here to thank you for all the freedoms you offer us even as we deserve to pay fines. Thank you that you are “clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment”. Thank you for your presence and grace even when we are not ready or able to comprehend it and even as we transgress on others. You know us God. You know our troubles and our delights. You understand who we are and what we need.

We are humbled to be made individually, by your design, and how grateful we are to be the recipients of all that you have brought into being, the witnesses to the glorious handiwork that is this world. Help us to care for your world God, to help steward this beautiful gift.

Be with us God as we rest in the quiet of this moment.

O God, we pray in thanksgiving for this church—both for its beautiful structure and for its history. We pray for our ministers, past and present, who have led and taught us, and for the many who join in community to make your ways our ways. We pray for the following of our members, asking for your blessing upon them and your presence with them:

Mike & Laurie Petersen; Duff & Lisa Peterson; John & Julie Peterson; Rick & Kate Peterson; Tim & Julia Peterson; Judy Petrie; Judy Pettas & Shaun Wood; John & Vallie Pettersen; Gen Phelps; John & Lucie Phillips; Kevin Phillips & Annee Engelmann-Phillips; John & Kathy Piepgras; Vlatka Piergies; James & Judith Pierpont; Dick & Karen Pigott; Steve & Beverly Pinaire; Silvi Pirn; John & Laura Podjasek; John & Grace Poe; Scott & Ella Pofcher.

We pray for our world and our country O God. The news is an overwhelming maelstrom of violence, environmental upheaval, corruption, and pandemic. Please calm our waters, God of all, and anchor securely to you—the source of everything good.

We pray for your grace, mercy and presence on those known to us, who have need of you in ways physical and spiritual.

And we pray all these things in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

**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 trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

David Adam

May you find in Christ Jesus, our risen Lord,  
A companion for your journey, a sure ground for your hopes,  
The peace that passes all understanding,  
And the joy that life is eternal.  
Amen.