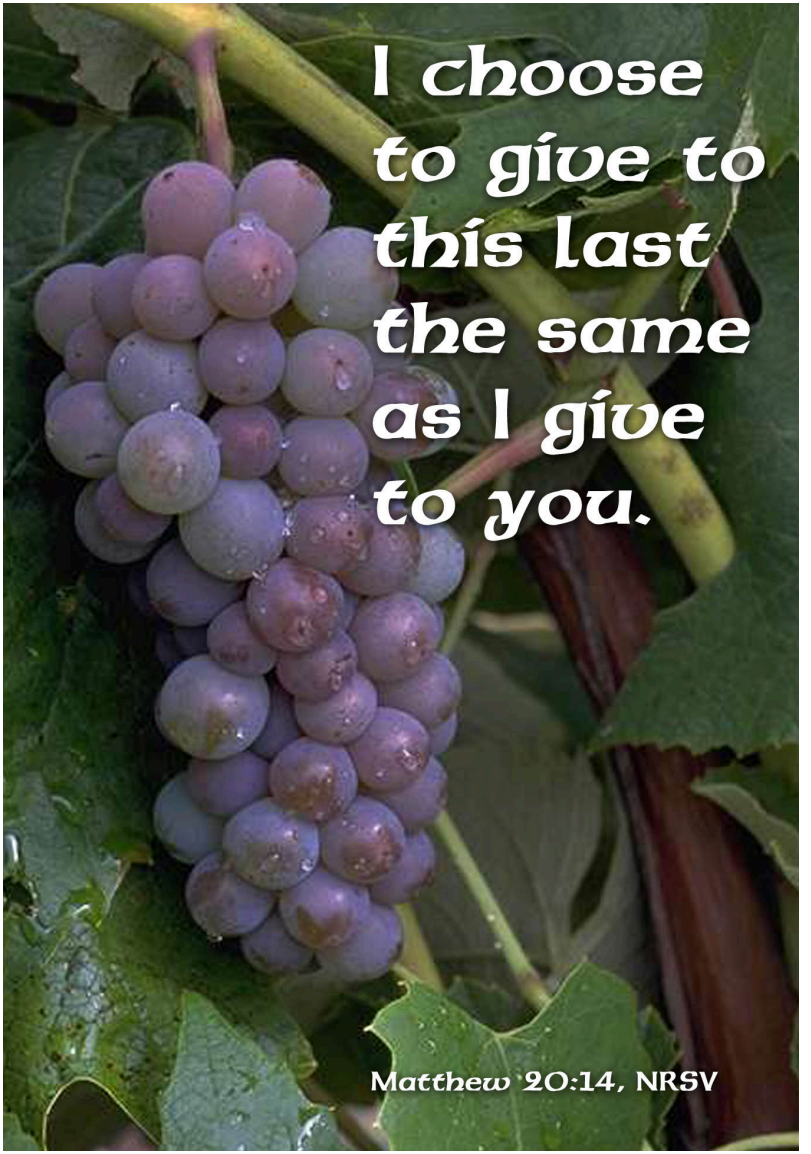
Elim Lutheran Church
Sunday, September 20, 2026
17th Sunday After Pentecost



RECONCILING IN CHRIST

The Elim Express contains announcements and happenings at Elim. Use this QR Code to the right to read the Elim Express online. Just scan it with the photo app on your phone.

Welcome to Elim Lutheran Church

1) Accessible restrooms and an AED are located by the exit near the parking lot. An all-gender restroom is in the Sanctuary Balcony.

2) Elim belongs to the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). To learn more, visit://www.spselca.net/

Today we welcome and thank Pastor Debbie McAllister as our guest preacher. She will be here while Pastor Kathryn is with family in Canada.

WELCOME

Pastor: Let us welcome all who are here to worship with us today. Here at Elim:

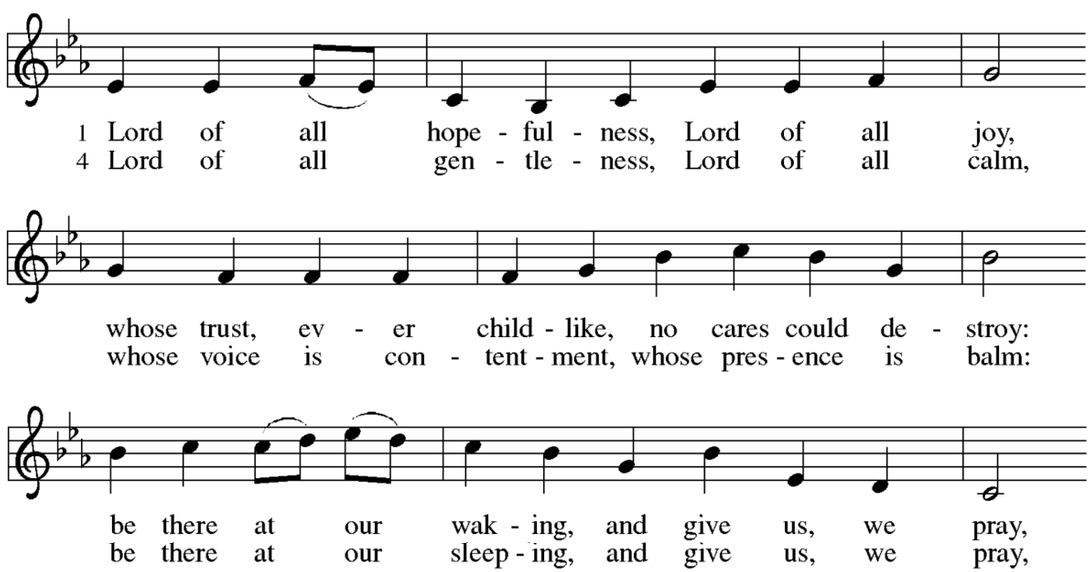
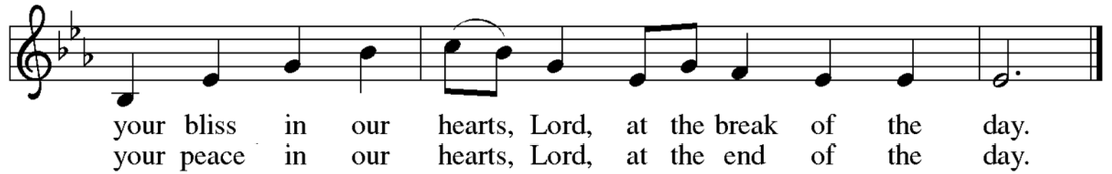
All: **You are welcome, you are loved, you belong.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

Please stand as you are able

OPENING HYMN: LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS ELW 765 VS 1,4



Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
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GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of saints be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lector: Almighty and eternal God,

All: **you show perpetual loving kindness to us your servants.**
Because we cannot rely on our own abilities,
grant us your merciful judgment,
and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

READING: JONAH 3:10—4:11

Lector: A reading from the book of Jonah.

10 When God saw what the people of Ninevah did, how they turned from their evil ways,
God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and
he did not do it.

4:1 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the Lord
and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I
fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow
to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. 3 And now, O Lord,
please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." 4 And the Lord said,
"Is it right for you to be angry?" 5 Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the
city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what
would become of the city.

6 The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his
head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. 7 But when
dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it

withered. [8] When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

[9] But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." [10] Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. [11] And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

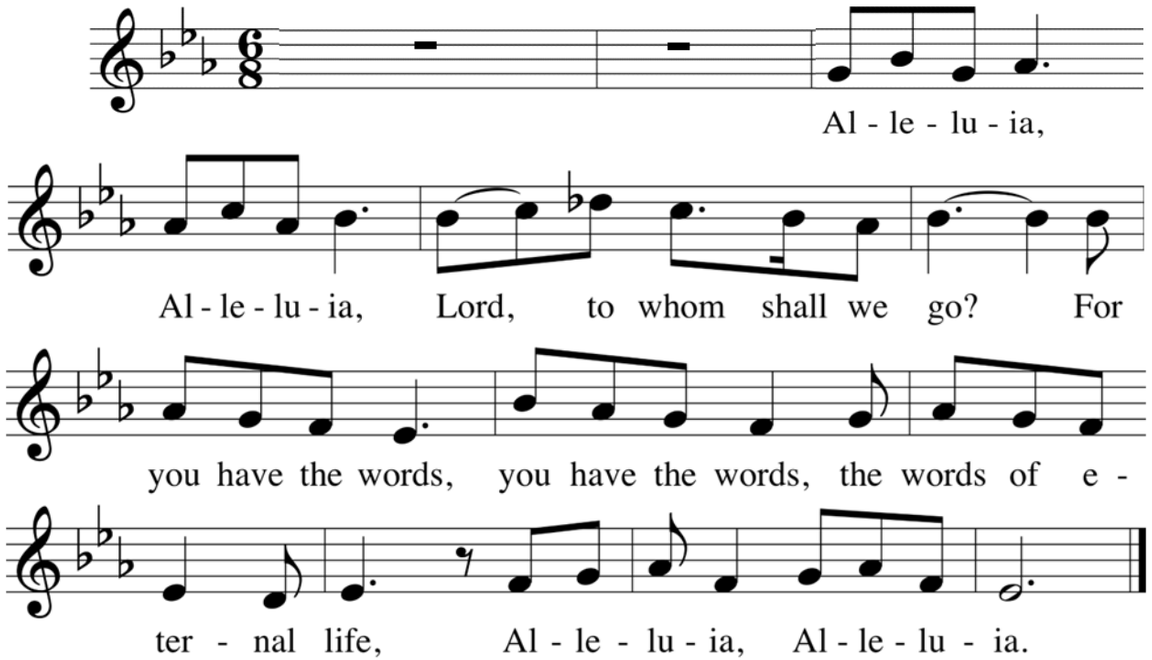
Lector: The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:1-8 *(Please read responsively)*

Lector: [1] I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.
All: [2] Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.
Lector: [3] Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.
All: [4] One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.
Lector: [5] I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.
All: [6] They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.
Lector: [7] They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
All: [8] The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Please stand as you are able

ALL: GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Music: Marty Haugen; © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 20:1-16

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Matthew.
All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to the disciples: [1] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. [2] After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. [3] When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, [4] and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. [5] When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. [6] And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' [7] They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' [8] When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the

first.’ [9] When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. [10] Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. [11] And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, [12] saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ [13] But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? [14] Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. [15] Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ [16] So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

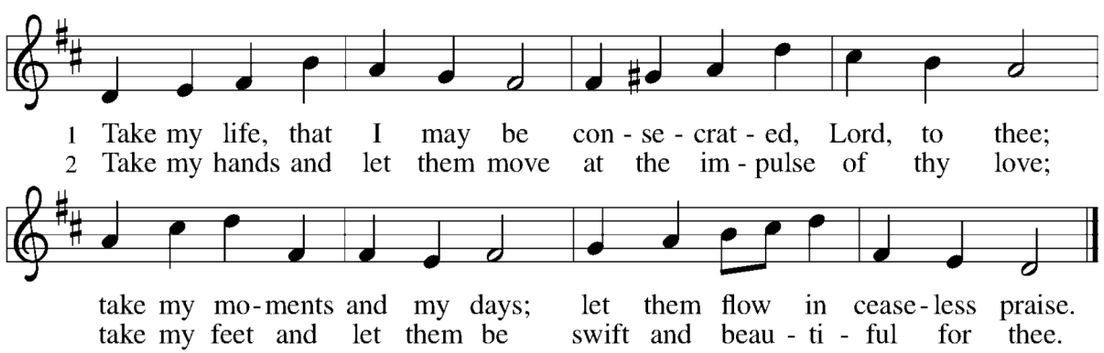
Please be seated

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON: Pastor Debbie McAllister

Please stand as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY: TAKE MY LIFE, THAT I MAY BE ELW 685 VS 1,2,5,6



5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

Please be seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ALM: Reminded of God’s gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

ALM: Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

ALM: Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

ALM: Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

ALM: Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need. We especially pray for Dave, Anita, Debra, Carol, Noelle, Lou, Susan, Brian, Jim, and those we name silently and aloud (brief silence). Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

ALM: Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

ALM: Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

ALM: O God, bless all those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and celebrations of all kinds this week. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

Pastor: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC: *"La Dispute" By Yann Tiersen* Performed by Stella Prime

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OFFERING PRAYER

ALM: God of creation,

All: you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always. Amen.

Please stand as you are able

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed…
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pastor: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

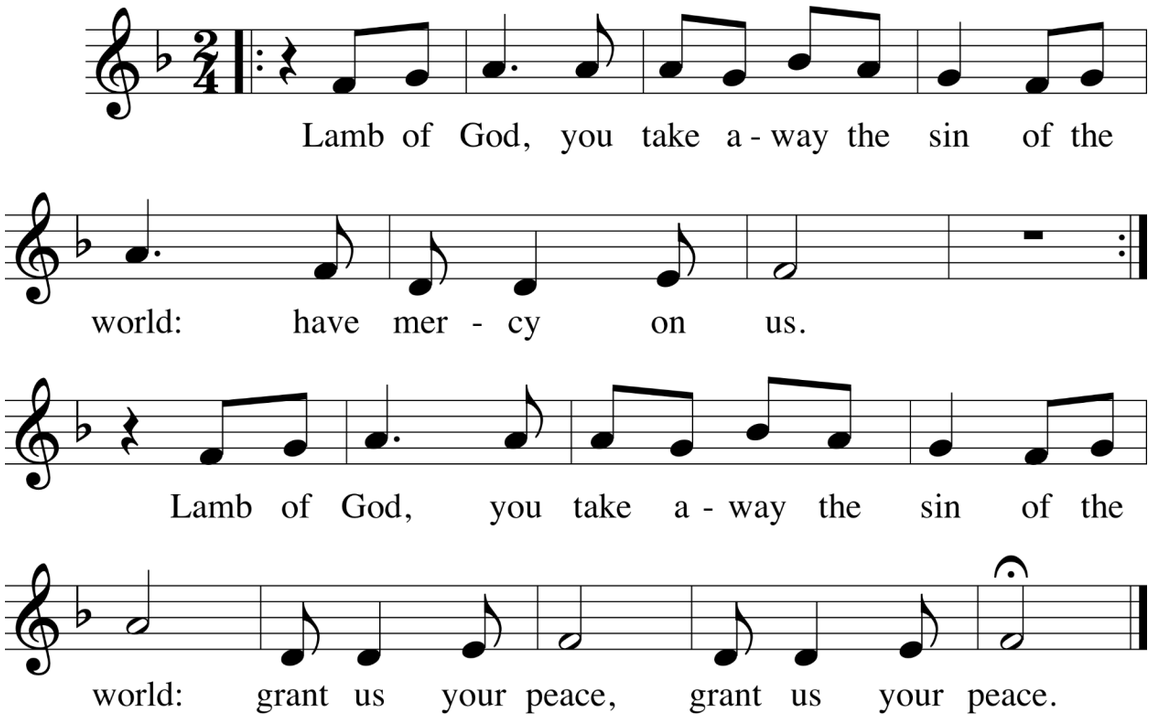
All: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 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 and ever. Amen

Please be seated

LAMB OF GOD



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COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes everyone to his table and so we offer to everyone, without exception, to share in Holy Communion. If you would like to receive communion with us today, please come forward and hold out your hands. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please let the server know. When you receive the bread you may dip it in the wine (darker color) or juice (lighter color). If you choose to take a individual cup, please discard the cup after drinking. If you would like to receive a blessing instead, please place your hand over your heart. If you are a visitor and would feel more comfortable, you are welcome to remain seated.

If you would like to receive communion but cannot come forward, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you.

COMMUNION HYMN: JESUS, BREAD OF LIFE (PORTER'S GATE) CCLI

Verse 1

Jesus bread of life manna from heaven
Broken for the world
Offered up for every man
The feast of angels
Becomes food for the weary
And hungry hearts are filled
When you open up your hand (2X)

Chorus

Oh Lord come fill us with your love
This table laid for us
There is more than enough
Jesus bread of life

Verse 2

Sister take what you need anything I own
There is no famine here Jesus' love will multiply
Brother what's mine is yours you are not alone
There is no shortage here Jesus' love satisfies
Jesus' love satisfies

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Please stand as you are able

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ALM: Sustaining God,
All: with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

Response after blessing: **Amen**

SENDING HYMN: WE ABIDE, WE ABIDE IN YOU CCLI (PORTER'S GATE)

Chorus
Where can my soul find living water
Apart from You we bear no fruit
O plant my feet down by the river
We abide we abide in You

Verse 1
We are the vineyard You have planted
Tend our leaves and wild branches
We abide we abide in You
We abide we abide in You

Verse 2
Fruit growing from our strength and labor
Rain on us with grace and favor
We abide we abide in You
We abide we abide in You

Chorus
Where can my soul find living water
Apart from You we bear no fruit
O plant my feet down by the river
We abide we abide in You

Verse 1
We are the vineyard You have planted
Tend our leaves and wild branches
We abide we abide in You
We abide we abide in You

Chorus
Where can my soul find living water
Apart from You we bear no fruit
O plant my feet down by the river
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Chorus
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SENDING

ALM: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
All: Thanks be to God.

September 27, 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Intro: Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

Readings: Psalm 25:1-9 / Philippians 2:1-13 / Matthew 21:23-32

Elim Worship Team

The Rev. Kathryn Gulbranson, Pastor ····· Presiding Minister
Robin Merrill ····· Assistant Lay Minister
Lauren Haile ····· Music Director
Erin Hetrick-Hohenner ····· Office Manager (Elim Express, Announcements)
Barb Villa ····· Bulletin Production
Richard Maxon ····· Bookkeeper
Paul Haile, Andy Hohenner, Kevin Prime, Maria Svinth ····· Tech Audio/Video

Special thanks to all our volunteers who helped with our worship service

Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson's Email - pastorkathryn@elimpetaluma.org

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