

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Chester, Vermont
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2026



Prelude Selected and played by Karlaine Livingston

After the prelude, the bell is rung ten times to summon the people of Chester to join us for the Eucharist on this Fourth Sunday after Pentecost. Then we observe a moment of silence before the opening hymn.

Entrance Hymn 410 *The Hymnal 1982* music and words, #410 in blue hymnal.

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows.

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

These words are in the public domain.

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

Presider Let us pray.

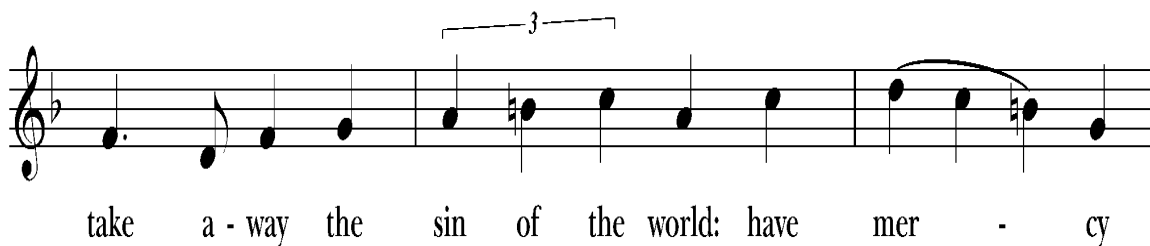
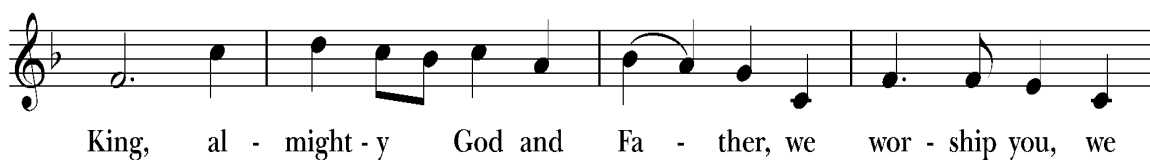
Presider and people

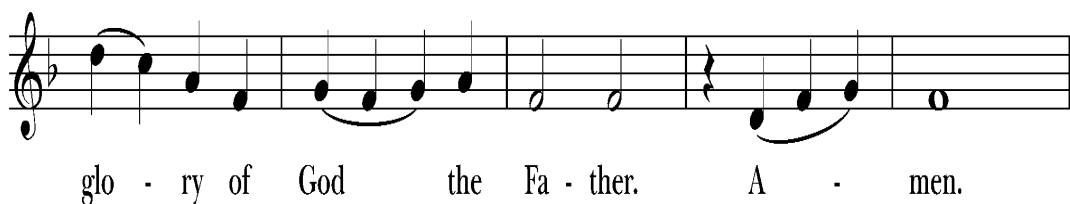
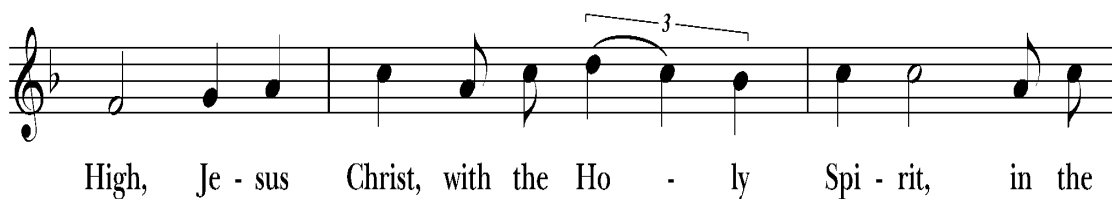
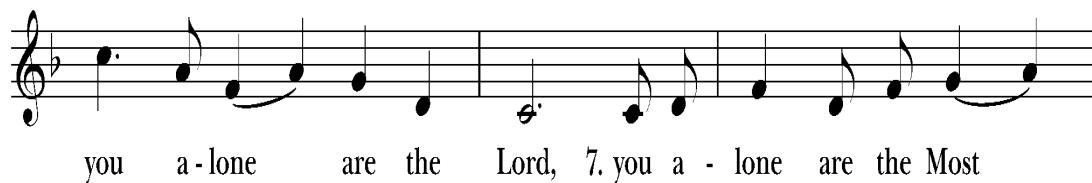
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song of Praise S-280 *The Hymnal 1982* *Service Music*



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and





Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Collect for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Presider and people

Holy One of Israel, Covenant Keeper, you restore what is lost, heal what is wounded, and gather in those who have been rejected. Give us the faith to speak as steadfastly as did the Canaanite woman, that the outcast may be welcomed and all people may be blessed. (Revised Common Lectionary Prayers)

The First Reading – Genesis 45:1-15

Reader A reading from Genesis.

1 Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. 3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold

me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. 10 You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11 I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' 12 And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. 13 You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." 14 Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. 15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133

1. Oh, how good and pleasant it is, * when kindred live together in unity!
2. It is like fine oil upon the head * that runs down upon the beard,
3. Upon the beard of Aaron, * and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
4. It is like the dew of Hermon * that falls upon the hills of Zion.
5. For there has God ordained the blessing: * life for evermore.

Second Reading – Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 706 *The Hymnal 1982*

1 In your mer - cy, Lord, you called me, taught my
 2 Lord, I did not free - ly choose you till by
 3 Now my heart sets none a - bove you, for your

sin - filled heart and mind, else this world had
 grace you set me free; for my heart would
 grace a - lone I thirst, know - ing well, that

still en - thrall'd me, and to glo - ry kept me blind.
 still re - fuse you had your love not cho - sen me.
 if I love you, you, O Lord, have loved me first.

The Holy Gospel – Matthew 15:10-28

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, O Christ.

12. [10[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:11it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." 12Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" 13He answered, "Every plant

that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." 15But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." 16Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? 17Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? 18But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. 19For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. 20These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

21Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." 23But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." 24He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." 25But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." 26He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." 27She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." 28Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, O Christ.

Nicene Creed Presider and people

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Presider

Let us cry out to the Son of David with our prayers for the Church and the world.

Give your Church wisdom and strength, that we may do the Baptismal work you have called us to do. We pray for our parish clergy, for *Shannon*, our bishop, and *Sean*, our Presiding Bishop, and for all the people of God in every place.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Give our nation and every community just and wise leadership, that *Donald*, our President, *Philip*, our Governor, and all those in authority may seek your will.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Reconcile us one to another, Gracious God, in a time of division and strife. Help us to see and reject the sin of white supremacy and racism, in our community, our nation, our Church, and the world.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Grant relief and your abiding presence and protection for all those who are oppressed for their race, ethnicity, or skin color; hear their cry and move your people to action.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Convict the consciences, by your Holy Spirit, of all those who benefit from these systems of racism and injustice, that they may hear your call to confront and dismantle them.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Sustain and restore all those in danger and need: the sick and the dying, the poor and the marginalized, prisoners and their families, victims of terror and violence.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Bless the relationships of our lives, in our towns and every community, and among our families, companions, and all we love.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Be with us in all our comings and goings, with school staffs and all students and teachers returning to classes this late summer and fall; with travelers and those on vacation; and with all those who are visiting our community this day.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servants who have died.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Hear the prayers of your people, O God. I invite any additional prayers of intercession or thanksgiving at this time.

Silence

Presider

Almighty God, who calls us to love one another, grant us that redemptive love that knows no bounds, that we may be transformed more and more into your holy people this day and always; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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Presider Let us confess our sins to God. *Silence may be kept.*

Minister and People God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace *Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.
People And also with you.

Offertory Sentence

May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance and come to us.”(Psalm 67)

Offertory Hymn 408 *The Hymnal 1982*



1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
2 What God's al-might - y power hath made, his gra - cious mer - cy
3 Let all who name Christ's ho - ly Name give God all praise and



a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of
keep-eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade his watch-ful
glo - ry; let all who know his power pro - claim a - loud the



our sal - va - tion; with heal - ing balm my soul he fills, and
eye ne'er sleep-eth. With - in the king - dom of his might, lo!
won - drous sto - ry! Cast each false i - dol from its throne, the



ev - ery faith - less mur-mur stills: to God all praise and glo - ry.
All is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry.
Lord is God, and he a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry.

Offertory Presentation Hymn 380 Verse 3 "Doxology"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Eucharistic Prayer *The- people remain standing.*

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

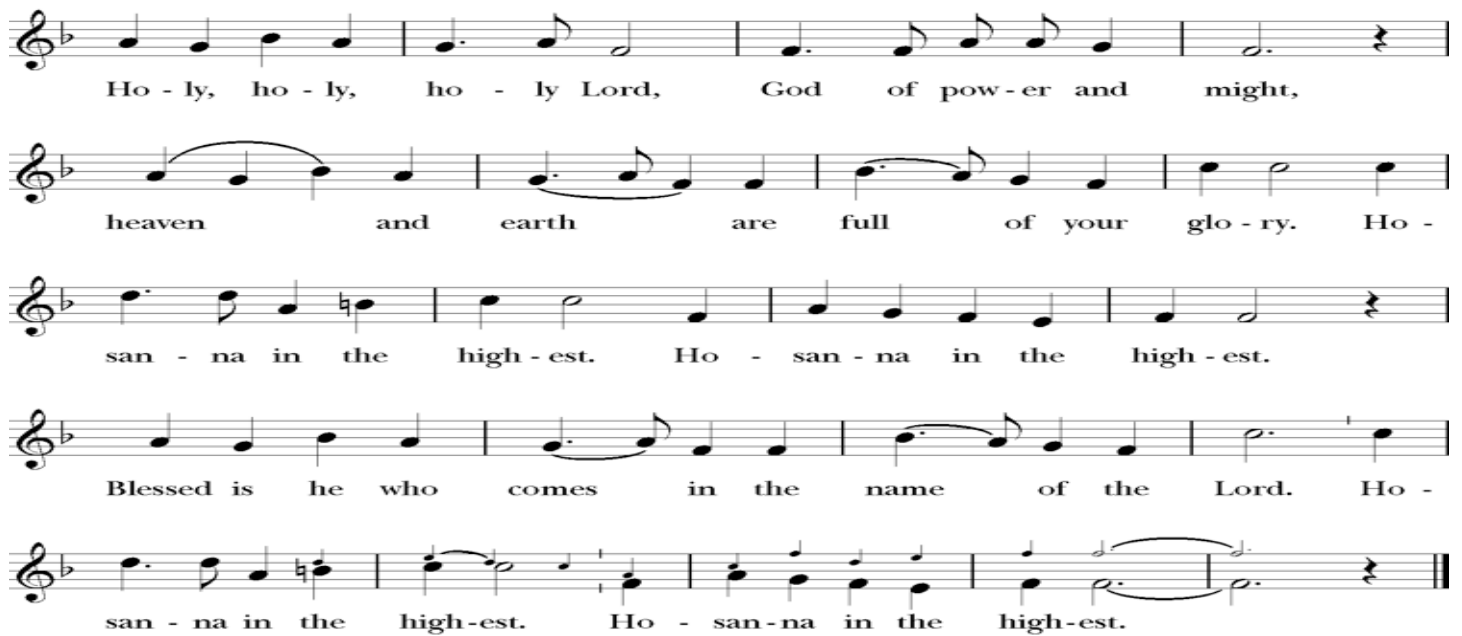
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places,
our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,
the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; through Jesus Christ our Lord; for you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. And so as the stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Presider and people S125 The Hymnal 1982



The people stand, sit, or kneel as is comfortable.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

“Drink this, all of you:

this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,
poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us:
the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension,
longing for Christ’s coming in glory,
and presenting to you these gifts
your earth has formed and human hands have made,
we acclaim you, O Christ:

Presider and people

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts of bread and wine
that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power,
may be a people of hope, justice and love.
Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of
time gather us with blessed Luke, the patron of this congregation, Jim
Sullivan, who is about to be buried, and all your people into the joy of our
true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
we worship you our God and Creator
in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, As our Savior Christ Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Presider and people

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, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

S 164 The Hymnal 1982

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

The musical score consists of three systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system has four measures of music. The second system has four measures of music. The third system has four measures of music. The lyrics are written below the treble staff of each system.

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven;
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure of the mind;

there's a kind-ness in his jus - tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good;
 There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed;
 If our love were but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word;

there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
 and our life would be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Post Communion Prayer *Presider and people*

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Closing Hymn 531 *The Hymnal 1982*

1 O Spi - rit of the liv - ing God, in
 2 Give tongues of fire and hearts of love, to
 3 Be dark - ness, at thy com - ing, light; con -
 4 Con - vert the na - tions! far and nigh the

all thy plen - i - tude of grace, wher - e'er the foot of
 preach the rec - on - cil - ing word; give power and unc - tion
 fu - sion, or - der in thy path; souls with - out strength in -
 tri - umphs of the cross re - cord; the Name of Je - sus

man hath trod, de - scend on our a - pos - tate race.
 from a - bove, when - e'er the joy - ful sound is heard.
 spire with might, bid mer - cy tri - umph o - ver wrath.
 glo - ri - fy, till ev - ery peo - ple call him Lord.

Closing Blessing

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Postlude Selected and played by Karlaine Livingston

Announcements

Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

PLEASE!! Take this service leaflet with you. Read the scriptures again. Learn a hymn or two. Use the prayers of the people all this coming week. Blessings! To prepare for the next Sunday, the twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, slowly read next Sunday's scriptures. Jot down questions and thoughts you may have. Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 30 The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10-11:15 AM

Rev. Dr. Bruce MacDuffie Presiding

September 2 Midweek Eucharist 5:30-6PM

Commemorating the Martyrs of New Guinea

September 6 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Eucharist 10-11:15

Reading Group after Coffee

September 9 Midweek Eucharist Commemorating the Martyrs of Memphis

OTHER EVENTS

July 30 Croquet and/or Badminton 6:00-7:30

August 6 Memory Café. Willard Hall, 11AM-1PM

September 3 Memory Café 11AM-1PM