

November 8, 2020 ~ Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

GATHERING SONG: No. 14 – “For the Beauty of the Earth” v. 1 and refrain v.1

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Whether we embrace God’s call in our lives or try to avoid it,
**God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**
Whether we are long-timers or latecomers in the life of faith,
**God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**
Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable or bring hardship,
**God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**
We praise God’s name forever and ever!

*OPENING SONG OF PRAISE: No. 694 – “Great God of Every Blessing”

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Forgiving God,
we repent of all the ways we turn from you.
You call, but we do not listen;
you show us your path, but we prefer our own way.
Forgive us, heal us, and lead us back to you,
that we might show mercy to others.
In Jesus' name we pray.**

Time for Silent Confession

Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

SONG OF RESPONSE: No. 59 – “The Steadfast Love of the Lord”

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
God's mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning, new every morning;
great is your faithfulness, O Lord,
great is your faithfulness.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 18:13 and Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-4:11

SERMON: "Going to Nineveh"

HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 716 – "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace
conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from *A Declaration of Faith*

We believe Christ gives us and demands of us personal lives that are centered in God and open to God's reality and rule. Christ teaches us to put obedience to God above the interests of self, family, race or nation; to offer God joyously our money, ability, and time.

It is part of our discipline to observe a day of worship and rest, setting aside our own working to enjoy God's work, celebrating with our family in Christ the Lord's goodness. We need constantly to search out God's way in Scripture, not expecting detailed directions for every decision, but relying on the Word to tell us who God is, to press God's present claim on us, and to assure us of God's grace and comfort.

RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY: No. 711 – “Lord of All Good”

Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to you;
use them your holy purpose to fulfill,
tokens of love and pledges brought anew,
that our whole life is offered to your will.

We give our minds to understand your ways;
hands, eyes, and voice to serve your great design;
heart with the flame of your own love ablaze,
till for your glory all our powers combine.

Father, whose bounty all creation shows;
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:
to you with grateful hearts ourselves we give.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

*FINAL HYMN: No. 761 – “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

Called as partners in Christ’s service,
called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God’s chosen end.

Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring,
Christ’s clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering,
reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
all God’s people, young and old,

blending human skills together
gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action,
make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow
ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow
with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving
hope and confidence and peace.

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: No. 742 – "We Will Walk with God"

We will walk with God, my brothers; we will walk with God.
We will walk with God, my sisters; we will walk with God.
We will go rejoicing, till the kingdom has come.
We will go rejoicing, till the kingdom has come.

November 8, 2020

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