

September 13, 2020 ~ Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM:

Erin Rainard - 17th

John Lyon - 18th

GATHERING SONG: No. 370 – “This Is My Father’s World” v. 1 (alt.)

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Mother's world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, the wonders God has wrought.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

CALL TO WORSHIP:

The heavens declare the glory of God.

The firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.

The plants and trees show God’s presence.

Let us join with creation in praising God.

*OPENING SONG OF PRAISE: No. 19– “God of Great and God of Small”

God of great and God of small,
God of one and God of all,
God of weak and God of strong,
God to whom all things belong,
alleluia, alleluia,
praise be to your name.

God of land and sky and sea,
God of life and destiny,
God of never-ending power,

yet beside me every hour,
alleluia, alleluia,
praise be to your name.

God of silence, God of sound,
God by whom the lost are found,
God of day and darkest night,
God whose love turns wrong to right,
alleluia, alleluia,
praise be to your name.

God of heaven and God of earth,
God of death and God of birth,
God of now and days before,
God who reigns forevermore,
alleluia, alleluia,
praise be to your name.

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Lord God,
you know the ways of good and evil.
You know the things that tempt us
and the things that give us life.
You know our nakedness,
and you know our sin.
We confess that we have disobeyed your word,
denying your providence and care
and relying on our own cleverness.
Have mercy on us, we pray:
cover us with your grace,
feed us with the bread of life,
and re-create us in your image;
through Jesus Christ our Savior...**

Time for Silent Confession

Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

SONG OF RESPONSE: No. 59 – “The Steadfast Love of the Lord Never Ceases”

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 11:4 | Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8

SERMON: “How Did We Get Here?”

HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 315 – “In the Midst of New Dimensions” (alt.)

In the midst of new dimensions,
in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering in their separate ways?

(Refrain)

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey
now and ever, now and ever,
now and evermore.

Through the flood of starving people,
warring factions, and despair,

who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care? (Refrain)

As we stand, a world divided
by our own self-seeking schemes,
grant that we, your global village,
might envision wider dreams. (Refrain)

We are Adam, Eve, and children,
all persuasions, old and young,
each a gift in your creation,
each a love song to be sung. (Refrain)

Should the threats of dire predictions
cause us to withdraw in pain,
may your blazing phoenix spirit
resurrect the church again. (Refrain)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from *A Declaration of Faith*

We declare that the universe of matter, energy, and life is God's good creation in all its parts. Even though evil has emerged within God's creation, we may work and play in it and explore it with wonder and joy.

Evil is whatever works against the loving purpose of God for human beings and all creation. Natural forces may have evil effects. Sinful human choices produce evil results.

Evil may become institutionalized in our social structures. The power of evil to hurt and destroy, to cut off the possibilities of full human life, calls into question the power and goodness of God. Whether we understand evil personally or impersonally, we cannot explain how it originated in a world made good. But we can affirm that evil is God's enemy as well as ours.

In Christ, God shared our agony over evil and broke the back of its power by bearing the worst it could do. God works continually to overcome evil. In the end it will be

utterly defeated. Therefore we have courage to endure evil, to learn from it, and combat it.

RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY: No. 607 – “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (tune #606)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

*FINAL HYMN: No. 547 – “Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”

“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story; here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”

“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: No. 542 – “God Be With You Till We Meet Again” v. 3

God be with you till we meet again;

when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.

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