

September 20, 2020 ~ Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM:

Alex Sonifrank - 25th

GATHERING SONG: No. 48 – “Rain Down”

Rain down; rain down;
rain down your love on your people.
Rain down; rain down;
rain down your love, God of life.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Our soul waits for the Lord, who is our help
and shield.

**Our hearts are glad, because we trust in God's
holy name.**

**Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.**

*OPENING SONG OF PRAISE: No. 49 – “The God of Abraham Praise”

The God of Abraham praise,
who reigns enthroned above,
the Ancient of Eternal Days,
the God of love!
The Lord, the great I am,
by earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name,
forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free,
high surging where it will.
In prophet's word you spoke of old
and you speak still.
Established is your law,
and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart
by your strong hand.

Your goodly land we seek,
with peace and plenty blest,
a land of sacred liberty
and Sabbath rest.
There milk and honey flow,
and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow
with mercy crowned.

You have eternal life
implanted in the soul;
your love shall be our strength and stay,
while ages roll.
We praise you, living God!
We praise your holy name:
the first, the last, beyond all thought,
and still the same!

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Holy God,
you promise us a life full of blessing,
but we do not always believe.
You incite us to hope,
but we fall back into fear.
You urge us to give freely,**

**but we cling to what we have.
You call us to watch at all times for you,
but we grow lazy and self-absorbed.
Forgive us.
Increase our hope, enlarge our hearts,
and keep us alert to the wonders you work
in the world every day.
For the sake of Jesus we pray...**

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 3:8 | Genesis 15

SERMON: “Dream Big”

HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 53 – “O God, Who Gives Us Life”

O God, who gives us life and breath,
who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death,
then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill

the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still
is making all things new.

O God, who calls your people out
to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt
and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering
through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring
of hope that never dies.

O God of covenant and law,
revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe;
we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you
and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew
the covenant of love.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: from *A Declaration of Faith*

To the world in its rebellion and alienation God promised blessing and restoration. The Lord chose Abraham and his descendants as bearers of that promise for all peoples. They had done nothing more than others to deserve the Lord's favor, but God loved them and made them God's own.

We acknowledge God's freedom and grace.

Though we are unworthy, the Lord has made us God's own people in Christ. God has chosen us as servants for the sake of the world and destined us to be children of God, giving us love and life, calling us to worship and honor him.

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. 730 – “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

I sing a song of the saints of God,
patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
and God’s love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus’ sake,
the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there’s not any reason, no, not the least,
why I shouldn’t be one too.

They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus’ will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;

for the saints of God are just folk like me,
and I mean to be one too.

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.

September 20, 2020

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