

July 19, 2020 ~ Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMS:

Tanya Davis Sparks, 7.24

GATHERING SONG: No. 283 – “Come, O Holy Spirit”

Come, O Holy Spirit, come;
Come, almighty Spirit, come;
Come, come, come.

Wa wa wa Emimimo;
Wa wa wa Alagbara;
Wao, wao, wao.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

CALL TO WORSHIP:

God, you are a God of invitation.
You invited Abraham to follow you.
You invited the disciples to drop their nets.
You invited the children to draw near.
You invited Peter to walk on water.
You invited the tax collector to dinner.
You invited the Samaritan woman into eternal life.
Just the same, you invite us to live lives of faith.
Give us the strength to say yes.
Let us worship good and holy God.

*OPENING SONG OF PRAISE: No. 410 – “God is Calling Through a Whisper” v1-3

God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit’s deepest sighs,
Through the thrill of sudden beauties that catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder, hush of stillness, rush of wonder:

God is calling, can you hear? God is calling, can you hear?

God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
Through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing, strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling, can you hear? God is calling, can you hear?

God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
Through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling, can we hear? God is calling, can we hear?

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON):

**God of the wind and the sea,
You invite us to be brave, but we are more familiar with fear.
You invite us to trust you, but we'd rather trust wind and gravity.
You invite us to believe in ourselves, but we have never been good at
that. You invite us to move—to change and take a risk—
But we stay planted where we are, afraid of the ways growth might
hurt. Forgive us for our self-doubt and fear.
We believe, despite our unbelief...**

Time for Silent Confession

Amen

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

SONG OF RESPONSE: No. 57 – "Tremble, O Tremble" v. 5

Tremble, O tremble!
Our God forgives, and yet our sin must be set right at last.
O Holy One!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 14:22-33

SERMON: "FAITH AND FAILURE"

HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 684 – "Faith Begins With Letting Go" v 1-3

Faith begins by letting go,
giving up what had seemed sure,
taking risks and pressing on,
though the way feels less secure:
pilgrimage both right and odd,
trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on,
keeping memory's roots alive
so that hope may bear its fruit;
promise-fed, our souls will thrive,
not through merit we possess
but by God's great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out,
stretching minds, enlarging hearts,
sharing struggles, living prayer,
binding up the broken parts;
till we find the commonplace
ripe with witness to God's grace.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

**I believe in God, the Great Sewer—
Who weaves us together in community,
Collecting our loose ends and turning them into belonging.
I believe in the Holy Spirit—
Who hems us in before and behind,
Catching us when we fall and writing us into God's holy narrative.
And I believe in Jesus Christ—
Who loved and claimed the people society had thrown out, refusing
to disregard anyone as scrap.**

I believe God has woven part of God's self into the fiber of our being, making us inherently worthy of love and belonging.
I believe the fabric of my life is weak,
That I am prone to error and need God's handiwork to remind me of love.
I believe in the Church, and that like a quilt of different fabrics, She is designed to be as diverse and beautiful as God's creation.
And I believe that when life unravels,
God is there to stitch my wounds together,
To hold me in the palm of God's hand, to tell me of love, And to invite me into a new journey.
Amen.

RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY: No. 692 – "Spirit, Open My Heart" - refrain

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

FINAL HYMN: No. 69 – "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" v 1-3

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save
I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

[Chorus]

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

[Chorus]

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

[Chorus]

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: No. 291 – “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness” refrain

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.

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