

November 14, 2021

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: If we come together to worship God but have not love, our prayers, singing and hearing the Scriptures read will not accomplish anything.

People: If we serve on numerous church ministries and are leaders in our congregation but have not love, the work we do will mean nothing.

Pastor: If we give every penny we have to our faith community and burn our candle at both ends doing the work of the church but do not have love, we will gain nothing.

People: Eternal Life begins for us here on earth, not because of anything we do, but because we have chosen the most excellent way: the way of love.

Pastor: Let us worship the Lord with our faith, our hope, and especially our love.

#HYMN No. #404 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Gracious and caring God, we have gathered here this morning to praise you for the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, who made the fullness of your love known in the world. Come to us now, we pray, and receive this worship as an expression of our love for you. Bless our hearts so we will follow the most excellent way of loving one another and caring for all people, even those for whom we have no feelings of affection. Dear Lord, through the power of your Holy Spirit, enable us to choose to love more selflessly and faithfully, the way Jesus did, so that peace and goodwill will increase and this earth might be transformed, day by day and little by little, into the likeness of your divine realm. We ask these things in the name of Jesus our Savior, who taught us to pray like this, saying...

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (Unison)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 23 and 1 Corinthians 13 (Bible pages)

SERMON MESSAGE: Choosing the Most Excellent Way Rev. Gagnon

#HYMN No. #87 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Invitation to Pray and Receiving the Prayer Request Slips
Pastoral Prayer and Silent Prayer
Organ Response

OFFERTORY

Offertory Invitation
Offertory Music
Doxology (#45 – Old Hundredth)

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

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Dear God, there are many things we could have chosen to use our money for, but this morning we choose to offer them to you so that the ministry of your Son, Jesus, can continue in the world. Bless these gifts and enable them to help us manifest your love to the lonely, the distressed and the deprived. May the resources we give today be used to show your most excellent way of love to others so we can bring about a world with less hatred, violence, conflict and destruction. Amen.

#HYMN No. #386 We Are One in the Spirit

BENEDICTION

Pastor: God's love for us is patient and kind. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres.

People: God loves us even when we feel unlovable and consider ourselves unworthy of it.

Pastor: God loved us from the first breath we took, and will love us even after our final breath.

People: God's steadfast love for us inspires us to choose to love others like we are loved.

Pastor: Go now in peace, and may you choose to make the most excellent way of love the way you live your life.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE