

OCTOBER 3, 2021

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: We have been called to walk the faithful road and choose the way of God's justice and peace.

People: We are here because we believe the Lord is good, and we want to live in that goodness; but sometimes life's detours obstruct us.

Pastor: In this sacred place we are encouraged to boldly proclaim our faith and seek guidance for the journey we are on.

People: We come with open minds, open hearts and open arms, receptive to the Spirit's direction, even if where we are being led is not where we had planned on going.

Pastor: Let us worship the Lord.

#HYMN #24 We Praise You, O God

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Gracious and merciful God, some of us who are gathered here find ourselves in a time of uncertainty and hesitation. When we come to a detour that interferes with the plans we have made, we feel as though our lives have been derailed and we are not sure which way to go. When an important decision needs to be made and our options are before us, we do not know which one to choose. Come to us now during this time of worship, dear Lord, to set our feet upon your paths, clear our minds to recognize your call, and give us the guidance we need to decide for your ways. Show us our possibilities, and prepare us to be servants of your will and agents of your love in the world. We ask these things in the name of Jesus our Savior, who taught us to pray this way, 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.

CHORAL ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 40:1-8 and Acts 9:1-9, 19b-22 (page numbers)

MESSAGE Dealing With Life's Detours

Rev. Gagnon

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):

Gracious God, deep in our hearts we hear your voice calling us to a higher, more selfless way of giving. So, with faith that you are leading us in a new and better direction, and trusting that when we come to detours in our lives you will provide what we need to reach our destination, we bring our treasure and dedicate it to your purposes. As part of our gift we also offer ourselves in service to you, to express our gratitude for your many blessings. We pray that you will use our lives and our offerings to accomplish your will and glorify your name. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

#Hymn of Preparation #410 Just as I Am

Words of Institution and Great Thanksgiving

Receiving of the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Gratitude (Unison)

Loving Christ, with gratitude for the spiritual nourishment we have received at your table, we dedicate our mouths to be your voice to the despairing; our hands to reach out in your name and lift up the downtrodden; our feet to visit those whom the world shuns and rejects; and our bodies to help shine your light in the world as we work for justice, peace, and righteousness on earth as it is in heaven. Take us, empower us, and use us for that end, we pray in your blessed name. Amen.

#HYMN #102 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

BENEDICTION

Pastor: For loving the world and knowing our names, we thank you, dear God.

People: Thank you, dear God.

Pastor: For your strength that fills us and your love that heals us, thank you, dear God.

People: Thank you, dear God.

Pastor: For your presence here with us today, and your hand that guides us to where we need to be tomorrow, even when life's detours get in our way, thank you, dear God.

People: Thank you, dear God.

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE