

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2021**

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Welcome and Announcements

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):**

Pastor: On most Sundays we come here to listen to a word from Jesus that comforts us and makes us feel better.

People: This morning we will hear a word from Jesus that is intended to challenge and transform us.

Pastor: Christ warns that we need to divest ourselves of anything that leads us to sin and endangers our souls.

People: The world beckons us to satisfy our selfish nature and do what we want; but Jesus calls us to deny our selfish nature and do what God wants.

Pastor: Let us worship the Lord and ask for strength to follow Christ even if the cost is having to give up our self-serving goals.

#HYMN #10 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):**

Holy God, it is so easy to covet worldly things that we can see instead of you whom we cannot see. It is so easy to hold out the hands you gave us to receive what we think is ours instead of using them to share with others what is really yours; to use the blessed gift of our feet to walk away from those who are hurting and in need rather than toward them to minister to them in Christ's name; and to shut our eyes to the beauty and wonder of your creation and be blind to your presence, rather than opening them to see your glory in it. Forgive us, dear Lord, for the stumbles we have made with our hands, feet and eyes. Help us not to shy away from the high cost of being a disciple of Jesus. Allow us to experience your grace so we can worship you with pure and righteous hearts. We ask these things in the name of Christ Christ 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.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READINGS James 5:13-18 and Mark 9:7:38-50 (Bible pages?)

SERMON MESSAGE: Costly Discipleship Rev. Gagnon

HYMN #463 Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

## 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, as disciples of Jesus we are denying ourselves some of the pleasures of life so we can share our blessings with your church. The cost is not so great that it causes us hardship or pain, and that probably means we could give more; but we hope to increase the amount of our offerings in the future because we do not want our love of worldly things to cause us to stumble. Please bless our time, talent and treasure, dear Lord, and use them to accomplish your will here on earth. Amen.

#HYMN #477 God of Grace and God of Glory

## BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the Lord fill us with love, so that we will use our hands to give rather than receive.

People: May the Lord guide us in right paths so that we will use our feet to walk in God's pure light rather than sin's impure darkness

Pastor: May the Lord open our eyes to see the world, not as our personal playground, but as holy ground that is being prepared for the coming of God's realm.

People: May the Lord increase our willingness to pay the high cost of being a disciple of Jesus and our desire to make meeting the needs of others as important as meeting our own.

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

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE