

NOVEMBER 1, 2020

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: This is the day you have made, O Lord. Help us to rejoice in it and be glad in it!

People: Remind us of the privileges we enjoy as your people, such as allowing us to come to you in these moments, to pray and sing and listen, to renew our fainting spirits, and to rest in all your promises.

Pastor: Open our eyes to see you, dear God. Open our ears to hear your Word.

People: Visit us through your Holy Spirit to help us celebrate our faith. And grant us patience in the life-long process of obeying you more and letting you down less each day.

Pastor: Let us worship the Lord.

HYMN #S-8 *He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought*

#PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Come to us now during this time of worship, dear Lord, and show us the way to fullness of life, so that our hearts might be filled with joy, hope and peace; so that we might respond positively to opportunities for ministry and service; so that we might be strengthened to face the challenges of life with courage and trust; so that, with patience and determination, we might continue the process of each day growing more and more into the persons you created us to be; so that we might learn to respect our sisters and brothers despite their different appearances, languages, beliefs and ways of life; and so that we might discern your presence in every person we encounter. We ask these things in the name of Jesus our Savior, who taught his disciples 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 READING: Matthew 23:1-12

SERMON MESSAGE: *You Can't Rush the Process*

Rev. Gagnon

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Gracious God, let your Word be proclaimed through us and through the offerings we bring for you to bless and use. Enable what we give to help support the work of teaching, preaching and witnessing to Christ; to assist those who are burdened, hungry and lost; and to encourage questioners and seekers who are striving to be faithful to you but are discouraged about how long it is taking. May your steadfast love be shared through these gifts, dear Lord, and through the ministries and mission work of our church. Amen.

HYMN #410 *Just as I Am*

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Opening words

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God.

People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

The Great Thanksgiving

Receiving of the Bread and Cup

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

Thank you, gracious God, for inviting us to the Lord's Supper, to eat the bread of heaven and drink the cup of blessing. We pray that you will transform us by the power of your Holy Spirit, so that we may look at the needs of others with Jesus' eyes, hear their cries of despair with Jesus' ears, speak words of hope and comfort to them with Jesus' mouth, and be the Body of Christ in the world by proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and ministering to others in Jesus' name. Amen.

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: God sends us out, purified, forgiven, and equipped. Rest assured that the Lord is with us every day.

People: God will help us make it through life's challenges because he cares deeply about us and holds us in the palm of his hand.

Pastor: We can be confident that God will continue to guide and teach us. Day by day, with patience and determination, we will grow in faith as we follow Christ's way.

People: So we commit ourselves anew to obeying God's word, and ask the Lord to bless us for ministry and multiply the fruits of our service for Christ.

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

DISMISSAL

COMMUNION SERVICE

Leader: The Lord be with you.
 ALL: And also with you.
 Leader: Lift up your hearts.
 ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.
 Leader: Let us give thanks to God.
 ALL: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.
 Leader: Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for your love—a love that has invited us to this sacred meal. But you do not call only us, you call all people: rich and poor, young and old, friends and strangers, saints and sinners, to come eat with you.

At this Communion meal, may those who believe they have failed find worth, and the lonely find company.
 May the hopeless find faith, and the aimless find purpose.
 May those who feel they are unworthy find acceptance, and those who are frightened find peace.
 And may the grieving find comfort and the wounded and broken find healing, in the company of your presence. Amen.

Blessed is the Word made flesh, and the One who established this meal, our brother Jesus, who walks beside us down the road of the world's suffering, and is made known to us in the breaking of bread and drinking of the cup.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread, and having blessed it, he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given to you."

[HOLD BREAD UP AND BREAK IT]

[POUR JUICE INTO CUP AND HOLD CUP UP]

In the same way Jesus took wine, and having given thanks for it, he poured it out and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This cup is the new relationship between God and humanity, sealed with my blood. Take this and drink it, for I tell you that I shall not drink wine with you again until the coming of God's Kingdom."

Hear us now, O Lord, and make this sacred meal complete.
We ask you to breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and drink.
May they become for us Christ's body and blood, vibrant with his life,
to heal us, renew us, restore us, and make us whole.
As we eat the bread and drink the fruit of the vine
may we grow more and more into the body of Christ,
becoming Jesus' hands and prophetic voice here on earth,
to carry on his ministry of loving and caring for others. Amen.

All things are now ready.
Now, come to the table of Jesus our Redeemer!
Come with humility, not because you have earned a place here,
but because you are in need of God's mercy.
Come because you love God, and desire to love God more.
Come because Jesus loves you, and gave his life on the cross for you.
Come because you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
Come because you wish to experience the mystery of God's grace.
Come now, for Christ himself is calling you to meet him here.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMMUNION ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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