

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: As we gather today we are becoming more aware of God's grace and love.

People: God's grace has brought us together; God's love has made us a church.

Pastor: The peace of Christ is ours thanks to the assurance that, because of the cross, we have been accepted and forgiven by a power greater than ourselves.

People: God has accepted us for who we are; therefore, we are to accept others for who they are. God has forgiven us for the sins we have committed against him; therefore, we are to forgive others for the sins they have committed against us.

Pastor: Let us worship the Lord.

#HYMN #23 *We Gather Together*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Gracious God, we have come together to praise you and to be touched and influenced by your Holy Spirit. We give thanks for your gift of Sabbath rest and renewal. We pray that during this time of worship our natures may be polished to better reflect your love in the world. Bless us with your presence here and now, we pray, and pierce the dark and shadowy areas of our lives with the brilliance of your purifying light. Transform our self-centeredness into generosity, our anxiety into peace, our callousness into compassion, and our need for retribution against others into a desire to show them mercy and forgiveness. Our motivation for doing these difficult things is the knowledge that, while we were still sinners, you sent Jesus Christ to redeem our souls. 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 5:1-2, 6-10 and Matthew 21:23-32

SERMON MESSAGE: *While We Were Still Sinners*

Rev. Gagnon

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Gracious God, you have been so good to us, even when we have not been very good to you. When we thirsted, you provided water. When we were hungry, you fed us. When we were anxious and afraid, you assured us and gave us your peace. And when we were yet sinners, you sent Christ to open to us the gates of Everlasting Life. We rejoice and give thanks for your gifts, your goodness, and your love. Receive our offerings, dear Lord, as an expression of our gratitude. Bless and use them to help transform the world, more and more every day, into the likeness of your Kingdom. Amen.

#HYMN #16 *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above (vss. 1-2, 5)*

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: The Lord remembers the covenant he made through his Son, Jesus Christ.

People: Even when we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Therefore, nothing can ever separate us from God's love.

Pastor: Because Christ died for you, maintain constant love for one another. Remember that love covers a multitude of sins.

People: We will live to show the world that Christ's suffering has not been in vain. We will carry the light of God's love to the world.

One: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

DISMISSAL