

August 1, 2021
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: “

Lighting the Christ Candle

Moment of Silent Reflection

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...

Call to Worship

We come from scattered lives to this time of worship together,
desiring unity in the Spirit.

We come from scattered lives to this time of worship together,
needing the compassion and healing of Christ.

We come from scattered lives to this time of worship together,
longing for a deep and lasting relationship with God.

Hymn VU 410 “This Day God Gives Me”

This day God gives me strength of high heaven,
sun and moon shining, flame in my hearth,
flashing of lightning, wind in its swiftness,
deeps of the ocean, firmness of earth.

This day God sends me strength to sustain me,
might to uphold me, wisdom as guide.
Your eyes are watchful, your ears are listening,
your lips are speaking, Friend at my side.

God's way is my way, God's shield is round me,
God's host defends me, saving from ill.
Angels of heaven, drive from me always
all that would harm me, stand by me still.

Rising, I thank you, mighty and strong One,
King of creation, giver of rest,
firmly confessing Threeness of Persons,
Oneness of Godhead, Trinity blest.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Eternal God, we come to you with hungry hearts,
longing to be filled:

filled with a sense of your presence;

filled with the touch of your Spirit;

filled with new energy for service.

Come to us, we pray. Be with us. Touch us.

Empower us as your people, that we might worship you,
and act in the world for Jesus' sake. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Time for the Young and the Young @



Anthem:

Responsive Reading: Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great kindness,

in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offences.

Wash away all my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin.

**For I acknowledge my faults,
and my sin is always before me.**

Against you, you only, have I sinned,
and done evil in your sight,

**so that you are justified in your sentence,
and blameless in your judgement.**

Guilty I have been from my birth,
a sinner from the time of my conception.

**But you desire truth in our inward being,
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean,

wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness,

let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Turn away your face from my sins,

and blot out all my iniquities.

Put a new heart in me, O God,

and give me again a constant spirit.

Do not cast me away from your presence,

do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and strengthen me with a willing spirit.

**Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.**

O God, open my lips,

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

You desire no sacrifice, or I would give it;

you take no delight in burnt offerings.

The sacrifice you accept, O God, is a broken spirit;

**a broken and contrite heart, O God,
you will not despise.**

Scripture: John 6:24-35

²⁴ So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³² Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are: **2 Samuel 11:26—12:13a; Ephesians 4:1-16** . You can look them up on www.biblegateway.com and search for the passage..... in any translation you prefer (ie. King James - KJV, NKJV, NRSV, etc.)*

Meditation: "Manna Happy Returns"



Hymn VU 344 "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes the sorrows, heals the wounds,
and drives away all fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.

Dear Name! the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding-place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace.

Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.

The effort of my heart is weak,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see you whom I seek,
I'll praise you as I ought.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Throughout the biblical story we meet people who said, "Yes," to God. May our offering today be part of our "Yes" to God's call to give in response to the blessings we have received.

These offerings are a powerful statement about what we lust after:
hope, equity, justice, healing and wholeness of spirit, peace, joy.

Holy One, accept these offerings and bless them to your purpose. In Christ's name. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Eternal God, you are ever with us. You know our going out and our coming in, our fears and our dreams. Listen as we share both with you, and in your mercy, answer.

All knowing God, we pray for your church, and especially for Brooksdale Pastoral Charge and their minister Susan Cole. We seek new ways of acknowledging your realities for us. We seek to be faithful to your call and to speak your word to the world. Strengthen us that we may be passionate in our service of your church.

Sovereign God, we pray for our leaders. They struggle with the competing needs and wishes of all of the peoples of this world. Help them set aside their fears and suspicions of one another that we too may set aside our fears and suspicions of one another and may become one family, your family. This week we pray for the people of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome, and Principe.

Compassionate God, we pray for all who mourn a loss, especially we pray for the friends and family of Fern Smith and Lorna Lozon. Grant them comfort in their mourning, and strength to discover life beyond their presence.

Merciful God, we pray for those who are sick or dying, recovering from medical treatment or awaiting medical intervention, especially we think of Ron Dickie, Ken Purdon, Barbara Thompson, and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

All this we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and who taught us to pray, singing:

**Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

Hymn VU 691 "Though Ancient Walls"

Though ancient walls may still stand proud
and racial strife be fact,
though boundaries may be lines of hate,
proclaim God's saving act!

Refrain: Walls that divide are broken down;
Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
Christ is our liberty!

When vested power stands firm entrenched
and breaks another's back,
when waste and want live side by side,
it's Gospel that we lack. **R**

The truth we seek in varied scheme,
the life that we pursue,
unites us in a common quest
for self and world made new. **R**

The church divided seeks that grace,
that newness we proclaim;
a unity of serving love
that lives praise to God's name! **R**

This broken world seeks lasting health
and vital unity.
God's people by God's Word renewed,
cast off all slavery! **R**

Commissioning and Benediction

We go from this time
to work for justice in our world.

We go from this time
to deliver healing and wholeness to all.

We go from this time
to be a blessing to all we meet.

We go from this time
to let all we meet know that God is near.

Go in peace, for there is nowhere you can go where God is not.

Sung Response: VU 424 “May the God of Hope Go with Us”

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Postlude: “

Announcements:

Study: *bullseye: Aiming to Follow Jesus* if you, or someone you know, is interested in this 6 week study in the fall, please let Rev. Mark know. Please also indicate your preference of day of week and time of day for the study, and whether you prefer a paper copy of the study guide or an e-book (the e-book is cheaper).

Scripture Lessons for next week:

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130, Ephesians 4:25--5:2; John 6:35, 41-51