

# *Sunday Morning Worship*

June 13, 2021

10:30am

*Bold text indicates where the congregation joins in unison.*

*\* indicates where the congregation may stand as they are able.*

## **\*Call to Worship** (responsive)

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

**Lord, send us out into your harvest.**

The kingdom of God is like a tiny mustard seed;

**It grows into a great plant with many branches.**

We have been crucified with Christ;

**Now it is Christ who lives in us.**

## **\*Opening Prayer** (unison)

**All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life, and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him that we may triumph over all evil, in the strength of the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **\*Hymn**

*Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

***Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!***

***O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!***

***All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;***

***join me in glad adoration!***

***Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!***

***Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
granted in what he ordaineth?***

***Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again;  
gladly for aye we adore him.***

### **Invitation to Confession**

When we gather to worship God, we remember that we are God's people, but we have often preferred our way instead of God's. Trusting God's power to make us new persons in Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

### **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**Holy God, the parable of the mustard seed teaches us that a little faith can produce great work in your kingdom. Yet we are too timid to bear the fruit of your righteousness, for we walk by sight and not by faith. Forgive us, Lord; we do not uphold the poor or the oppressed. We do not advocate for the powerless or the voiceless. We do not sacrifice ourselves for the needs of our neighbors. Renew us with the love of Christ so that we live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ who became the seed of your righteousness in us. Amen.**

### **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

We who walk by faith and not by sight believe the good news – if anyone in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! Praise be to God for the mercy and grace that forgives our sins.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Prayer of Illumination (unison)

**Holy Spirit, by your mysterious power speak to us your truth and show us your wisdom, that we may know you more deeply and serve you more faithfully, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Scripture Reading

Ezra 3:1-13; 6:19-22

*When the seventh month came, and the Israelites were in the towns, the people gathered together in Jerusalem. Then Jeshua son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel with his kin set out to build the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as prescribed in the law of Moses the man of God. They set up the altar on its foundation, because they were in dread of the neighboring peoples, and they offered burnt offerings upon it to the Lord, morning and evening. And they kept the festival of booths, as prescribed, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number according to the ordinance, as required for each day, and after that the regular burnt offerings, the offerings at the new moon and at all the sacred festivals of the Lord, and the offerings of everyone who made a freewill offering to the Lord. From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the Lord. But the foundation of the temple of the Lord was not yet laid. So they gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from King Cyrus of Persia.*

*In the second year after their arrival at the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua son of Jozadak made a beginning, together with the rest of their people, the priests and the Levites and all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to have the oversight of the work on the house of the Lord. And Jeshua with his sons and his kin, and Kadmiel and his sons, Binnui and Hodaviah along with the sons of Henadad, the Levites, their sons and kin, together took charge of the workers in the house of God.*

*When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the Lord with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord,*

*“For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.”*

*And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away.*

*On the fourteenth day of the first month the returned exiles kept the passover. For both the priests and the Levites had purified themselves; all of them were clean. So they killed the passover lamb for all the returned exiles, for their fellow priests, and for themselves. It was eaten by the people of Israel who had returned from exile, and also by all who had joined them and separated themselves from the pollutions of the nations of the land to worship the Lord, the God of Israel. With joy they celebrated the festival of unleavened bread seven days; for the Lord had made them joyful, and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, so that he aided them in the work on the house of God, the God of Israel.*

**Sermon**

**“Home is Where You Are”**  
*Third in a series, “Reclaim: Ezra”*

**Pastor Christina**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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 glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

*Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling*

***Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.***

***See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,***

***watching for you and for me.***

***Refrain:***

***"Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home."***

***Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"***

***Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,***

***pleading for you and for me?***

***Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,***

***mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]***

***O for the wonderful love he has promised,***

***promised for you and for me!***

***Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,***

***pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]***

**\*Benediction and Sending**



## *Prayers for at Home This Week*

### **Morning Household Prayer**

The sunlight greets me in the morning, reminding me that I begin this day in your presence. The air I breathe instructs me that I live by your constant love. Lord, I acknowledge that you are my God! I will seek your face in those I meet and make my aim to please and serve you alone, Jesus, my Lord. Amen.

### **Evening Household Prayer**

The numerous stars shine the wonder of God whose grace is beyond measure; whisper to me your abundant grace, which sustains me. As I lay down my head, I recall Jesus saying that the Son of Man has no place to lay his head. I imagine Jesus being with those who look for a place to lay their heads. O God, I ask for your mercy and pray for the day when we all can sleep in shalom, trusting in your mysterious work through Jesus Christ, the Savior of all. Amen.