

Sunday Morning Worship

Sunday, July 25, 2021

10:30am

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

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

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** (responsive)

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Nothing can separate us from God's love.

The Lord upholds those who are falling;

God raises those who are bowed down.

Jesus said: Ask, and it will be given to you;

for everyone who asks receives.

***Opening Prayer** (unison)

Eternal God, protector of all who put their trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Fill us with your mercy and your grace, that, with you to rule and guide, we may so use the good things of this present life that we do not neglect those of eternal worth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn #288**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Invitation to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, and be at peace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

#579

***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. Amen.***

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Exchange words of peace and reconciliation with one another.

Special Music

Margaret Metcalf & Jon Steimel

Prayer of Illumination (unison)

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word s proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Acts 9:1-9, 26-29

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he journeyed he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed about him. And he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting; but rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul arose from the ground; and when his eyes were opened, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

And when he had come to Jerusalem he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists; but they were seeking to kill him.

1 John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Sermon “A Walk with God is Not One Size Fits All”
Elizabeth Pechota, guest preacher

***Hymn #429** *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

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.

Morning Offering

***Doxology** #592

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

***Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

God of grace, it is our delight and our devotion to give these gifts to you. All we are and all we have are yours alone. Accept this joyful offering as a token of our abiding love: use it to bring peace, justice and comfort to all the world, Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith (unison)**

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

***Hymn #363**

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

***Benediction and Sending**

Prayers for at Home This Week

Morning Household Prayer

Praise to you, O God most holy, Uncreated Light. I am thankful that in you there is no night. Let my morning prayer rise to you as blooming flowers turn to meet the sun. May I meet the adventure of this day open to the opportunities you give me to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ. May I be so filled with the Holy Spirit that peace and compassion radiate from me to bless others so that they are touched by your glory. Enrich my senses with the beauty of your world, my mind with wonder at your ways, and my spirit with gratitude for all that you prepare for the redemption of creation through Jesus Christ the Son. Pierce my heart with love, especially for those in any kind of need, so that I am moved to help where I can and moved to cry out for help if the need is greater than I can answer. Spare others the consequences of my sin, and help me to be reconciled with those I have harmed in the past. Make me slow to anger, quick to forgive, and quicker still to confess my faults. In all things, let me trust in you. Let me finish the day as I begin it, in your care – in your gentle, merciful, loving hands, beloved and blessed triune God, whom I would worship and adore now and forever. Amen.

Evening Household Prayer

Holy triune God, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Thank you for the love you have shown me today. The gifts of air, water, food, and clothing; the gifts of human and nonhuman companionship and community; the gifts of the Spirit around me and Christ within me: all these gifts call for my deepest, highest praise to you. Forgive me for the times today when I have failed to follow your guidance, submit to your rule, or glory in your majesty. Grant healing and peace to any whom I have harmed today; let them not suffer because of my sins. Let us enter the night together, giving praise for your mercy and kindness. Grant that we will journey into night, led by your eternal Light, and that we may gain comfort, rest, and renewal, rising to a new day giving thanks and praise until you bring resurrection to all creation. Amen.