

Bulletin for Sunday, November 22, 2020

PRELUDE

GREETING and WELCOME

TIME of CENTERING PRAYER

CALL to WORSHIP:

L: We come, for God gathers us here, with that community called faith:

P: Where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.

L: We come, for God welcomes us here into that home called grace:

P: Where the naked are clothed in robes of hope; where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.

L: We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and brothers in that family called love:

P: Where the oppressed experience justice, where the sick are cradled in God's peace.

CALL to CONFESSION

They are the promises stretching back into the dim recesses of time, yet as new as this very moment. When we lose our way, God searches for us until we are found. When we hurt others, God brings healing to all. When we sin, God forgives us. Let us hold these promises close to our hearts, as we confess those things we try to hide.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Merciful God, we get so caught up in our own lives and needs that we fail to see others for whom we might provide some help and relief. You challenge us to feed those who are hungry and to quench the thirst of those who are parched. You ask us to bring clothing to those who have none or for whom the clothing is inadequate for the weather; to welcome the stranger and reach out to those who are marginalized; to always bring your words of healing and redeeming love. We have failed in these tasks – we ignore the opportunities and claim that we are too busy to help, too busy to care. How this attitude must sadden you, O Lord. You lavish your gifts upon us that we might use them for the betterment of your kingdom, and we treat them as inconveniences. Forgive us, O God. Forgive us and heal our wounds of greed and selfishness. Let us greet this day when the hope of the Reign of Christ can be made manifest and we can be part of this glorious kingdom of peace and compassion. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION

WORDS of PARDON and ASSURANCE

In the name of Jesus Christ who brings peace and hope to us, we are forgiven, healed and enabled to be part of the ministries of compassion in God's world. Rejoice! You are chosen and loved! Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING: "A Round of Thanks" Michael Foster, Linda Carey, and Terry White

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-2

MUSICAL OFFERING: "All Good Gifts" Suzette Burgess

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 25:31-46

SERMON: *"What Are You Doing for Christ?"* Pastor Warner

HYMN STORY *"He Leadeth Me"*

PRAYER CONCERNS / PASTORAL PRAYER and 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN STORY *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

BENEDICTION

We worship God in sanctuaries, in beautiful, holy spaces. But Christ has told us that if we want to find him in this world, we will seek out the lost, the least of his brothers and sisters—those who are hungry, thirsty, sick, in prison, naked and estranged. May we go forth this day with eyes open to seeing Christ in our world, and may we know God's love by loving one another. May we love, not just in word and speech, but in truth and action.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people. Go and be Christ for the world.

*** Flowers on the altar are given in honor of*