

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

OCTOBER 4, 2020

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

All Who Hunger, Gladly Gather

Setting by Dale Wood

Based on HOLY MANNA from *The Columbian Harmony*, 1825

*All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Through Moses, God said,

“Let my people go.”

In scripture, the law declares:

“In the seventh year, you must cancel all debts.”

With grace, Jesus said:

“Give one coat away.”

With honesty, Jesus taught:

“Sell what you have, give that money to the poor.”

Faith has always involved letting go, releasing, setting free,

Dropping our nets, giving to others, and following.

So in this hour of worship, may we release that which binds us.

May we worship with open, untamed, and porous hearts, so that we can walk freely with God.

Let it be so.

Amen.

HYMN

Lord, What Must I Do?

LYONS .

"Lord, what must I do?" A man asked one day.
The kingdom of God still seemed far away.
Christ spoke with compassion, "Just do one thing more;
Sell all your possessions, and give to the poor ... "

The man was upset and started to grieve;
Did he even hear what he would receive?
For Jesus continued, " ... Then come, follow me,
And you will have treasure in heaven! You'll see!"

O Lord, we have much and so we confess
Wealth gets in the way; possessions possess!
Our money distorts how we hear your good news;
It changes our vision, obscuring our views.

O Lord, may we have the courage today
To get rid of all that gets in your way;
And may the impossible now be found true:
By grace, we are blest and find treasure in you.

CONFESSING OUR SIN

Gracious God,

We admit to holding tight to that which we know and understand.

We put you in a box to avoid the shades of gray that come with faith.

We put worship in a box to avoid the discomfort of change.

We put ourselves in boxes labeled with gender expectations and societal norms.

We put others in boxes labeled “worthy” and “unworthy.”

We put all that we have in a box and pray we won’t run out.

So in this moment, we confess to holding tight to fear, greed, and worldly structures.

(Continued on next page)

Forgive us for missing the point.
Open our eyes to a new way—
to a holiness found in open boxes, unclenched fists,
shades of gray, and holy release.
Gratefully we pray,

Silence is kept for personal prayers of confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

JOYFUL RESPONSE TO THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Praise to God the Father

DA N'ASE

Praise to God the Father; praise to God the Son;
Praise to God the Spirit: praise to the Three-in-One.
Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord on high.
Praise to God Almighty; praise to the Holy One.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Carol Gordon

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 19:16-22

MUSICAL OFFERING

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 15:1-11

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SERMON

Our Money Story: Release

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe that on the first day,
God released love and creativity over a void;
and that void became mountains and rivers, sunsets and starry nights.**
**We believe God released
God's people from the grips of slavery,
liberating us day in and day out.**
**We believe God laid down with death
and was released from its grip,
knowing suffering and freeing us from this fragile life.**
**And we believe God invites us—
day in and day out—
to release our fears,
let go of assumptions, tear down walls,
throw open the doors, and walk closer to love.**
May it be so.
Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF GOD'S CHURCH, COMMUNITY AND WORLD

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Offertory Response

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore

PRAISE GOD

Prayer of Dedication

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

Prayer after Communion

HYMN

Faith Begins by Letting Go

LUX PRIMA

Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure,
Taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure:
Pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on, keeping memory's roots alive
So that hope may bear its fruit; promise-fed, our souls will thrive,
Not through merit we possess but by God's great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds, enlarging hearts,
Sharing struggles, living prayer, binding up the broken parts;
Till we find the commonplace ripe with witness to God's grace.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

BENEDICTION IN MUSIC

Where Charity and Love Prevail

TWENTY-FOURTH

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.

Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God's holy Son.
As members of each body joined, in him we are made one.

Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek; be his our only peace.

Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,
That we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.

Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God's name;
Our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same.

Today's Call to Worship, Confessing Our Sin, and Affirmation of
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