

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2017

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of the Church Bell

Prelude

Savior of the Nations, Come

J.H. Buttstedt

Welcome and Call to Worship

One: Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

All: Your word is our heritage forever, the joy of our hearts.

One: We have stumbled through the week and groped our way back to this place.

All: Illumine the steps before us and write your word on our hearts, for we carry the name of Jesus and would walk in the light of his love. Amen.

***Hymn**

Open My Eyes, That I May See

#451

***Call to Confession**

The Scriptures are shot through with stories of people just like us: men who grieved, women who questioned, siblings who did not get along, parents who chose favorites. God's word of grace is meant for people just like us. There is no need for pretense in this place. Let us go to God in prayer.

***Confession of Sin (unison)**

Patient and persistent God, we come, polished and presentable, to this comfortable room as if we knew what to expect, as if this were a safe and predictable place, as if we could simply observe.

Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations. In the mystery of your love, overshadow us. Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts until we bloom and spill with your passion to serve in a world that is wasting. Amen.

***Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The Spirit of God dwells in you. If you hear nothing else today, hear these words: there is no condemnation. In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

***Gloria Patri**

581

**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.**

Tune: Gloria Patri, Henry W. Greatorex, 1851, Public Domain

Heifer Project - Recognition of Birthdays and Anniversaries

A Song of Blessing

**All: May joy and peace surround you, contentment at your door,
And happiness be with you now, God bless you evermore.**

(Adapted from An Irish Blessing, Tune: Amazing Grace)

~Hearing God's Word~

Prayer for Illumination

God of life, by the power of your Spirit come to us now. Plow our hearts with your living Word until we who are broken become fertile with your love, for we long to bear fruit in a world that is wasting. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

First Reading

One: The Word of the Lord.

Genesis 25:19-34

page 21

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

One: The Word of the Lord

Psalm 119:105-112

page 569

All: Thanks be to God.

Epistle

One: The Word of the Lord

Romans 8:1-11

page 157-8

All: Thanks be to God.

Special Music

In His Time

Diane Ball

Gospel

One: The Word of the Lord.

Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

page 13-14

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

Get A Grip!

Rev. Terry Epling

***Affirmation of Faith (unison)**

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. [The Apostles Creed]

***Hymn**

Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers

#407

~Responding to God's Word~

Invitation to Give

We bring our gifts because tendrils of God's love have worked their ways into the soil of our hearts. Sisters and brothers let us yield our lives to God's abundant harvest.

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad

Please take a moment to sign your name and contact information in the pew pad.

Offertory

I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus

Ludwig Lenel

*Doxology

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

#606

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

* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Giver of life, we do not want the cares of the world and the lure of wealth to choke your word among us. As the sower casts seeds abundantly, hopefully, so we long to participate in your seeding of the world.

Receive these gifts as tokens of our lives. Send your cultivating Spirit to work among us until we yield and grow in grace, for we pray in the name of Jesus, who came out of love for the world. Amen.

Life in Our Church Community

Pastoral Prayer and 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 the glory, forever. Amen.

* Closing Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King

#15

*Benediction

Sisters and brothers, sow the gospel wherever you go—
not judging the soil on which you stand—
for God brings forth fruit from unexpected places.
May God, whose forgiveness is boundless,
the Christ, whose charge is freedom,
the Spirit, which grants us life and peace,
keep our minds and hearts in grateful communion
as we seek to serve. Amen.

*Postlude

Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

Hans Metzger

*Please stand, if you are able.

Electronic aid for the hearing impaired is available from the usher.

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