

Scriptural Meditation

We know very well that we are not set right with God by rule-keeping but only through personal faith in Jesus Christ. How do we know? We tried it—and we had the best system of rules the world has ever seen! Convinced that no human being can please God by self-improvement, we believed in Jesus as the Messiah so that we might be set right before God by trusting in the Messiah, not by trying to be good. Galatians 2:15-16

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of Our Church Bell

Welcome and Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ

Prelude Reflection on 'Kingsfold' by Dale Wood

Call to Worship

One: Jesus said that we should love each other as he loves each of us.

All: God rejoices at our love and compassion for others.

One: Sometimes we let prejudice and fear get in our way.

All: Yet when we truly confess our sins, God will forgive us.

One: Let us worship God and rejoice in God's love.

All: Let us praise God who forgives and restores us to life. Amen.

Prayer of Invocation

* Gathering Song I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say # 182

* Prayer of Reconciliation

Let us remain standing and express ourselves to God.

All: Patient God, how it must cause you sorrow when we erect walls of fear and condemnation when you would have us build bridges of peace. Help us to break down barriers that divide us and build bridges of love. Help us to take the time to get to know others, to see you at work within their lives. Bring us to places of hope and compassion, offering to build rather than demolish, offering to listen rather than pronounce our own ideas. Strengthen us to truly be your disciples, proclaiming your transforming love through our words and our deeds. For we ask this in Jesus' Name.

*A Time for Contemplation (a private time for you and God)

*Assurance of Forgiveness

One: God is with us, offering healing and comforting peace. We are loved by God, even though we are imperfect. We are loved eternally. Be at peace in God's complete love. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we 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.

God's Word for Little Ears

~Hearing God's Word~

Prayer for Understanding God's Word

All: Lord, help us to listen to your words that challenge the world's values, to listen to your words that bring the comfort of God's presence, to listen to your words that speak of grace and forgiveness, to listen to your words and open our hearts. Then let these words take root in our hearts, that we may grow in faith. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

I Kings 21:1-21a

page 328

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Responsive Reading

Psalms 5:1-8 (NRSV)

One: Give ear to my words, O Lord; give heed to my sighing.

All: Listen to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you I pray.

One: O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice;

in the morning I plead my case to you, and watch.

All: For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil will not sojourn with you.

One: The boastful will not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.

All: You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful.

One: But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house, I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of you.

All: Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.

New Testament Epistle

Galatians 2:15-21

page 188

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

^{2:15-16}We Jews know that we have no advantage of birth over "non-Jewish sinners." We know very well that we are not set right with God by rule-keeping but only through personal faith in Jesus Christ. How do we know? We tried it—and we had the best system of rules the world has ever seen! Convinced that no human being can please God by self-improvement, we believed in Jesus as the Messiah so that we might be set right before God by trusting in the Messiah, not by trying to be good.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸Have some of you noticed that we are not yet perfect? (No great surprise, right?) And are you ready to make the accusation that since people like me, who go through Christ in order to get things right with God, aren't perfectly virtuous, Christ must therefore be an accessory to sin? The accusation is frivolous. If I was "trying to be good," I would be rebuilding the same old barn that I tore down. I would be acting as a charlatan.

¹⁹⁻²¹What actually took place is this: I tried keeping rules and working my head off to please God, and it didn't work. So I quit being a "law man" so that I could be God's man. Christ's life showed me how, and enabled me to do it. I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I am not going to go back on that.

Is it not clear to you that to go back to that old rule-keeping, peer-pleasing religion would be an abandonment of everything personal and free in my relationship with God? I refuse to do that, to repudiate God's grace. If a living relationship with God could come by rule-keeping, then Christ died unnecessarily.

(The Message)

Gospel Lesson

Luke 7:36-8:3

page 66

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Message

Who Needs to be Forgiven?

Pastor Kim Nelson

~Responding to God's Word~

***Affirmation of Faith**

Let us stand and affirm our faith.

All: 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 Spirit, 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 Spirit; 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]

Invitation to Become a Joyful Giver

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad

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

Offertory

You Raise Me Up

arr. by J. Holstein

***Doxology** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow/Doxology*

All: 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: A-men.

Tune: Old Hundredth LM, Genevan Psalter 1551, Public Domain.

Prayers of the People followed by Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

~Going Forth to Serve God~

Life in Our Church Community

***Song of Sending Forth**

O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go

#833

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Carillon-Sortie

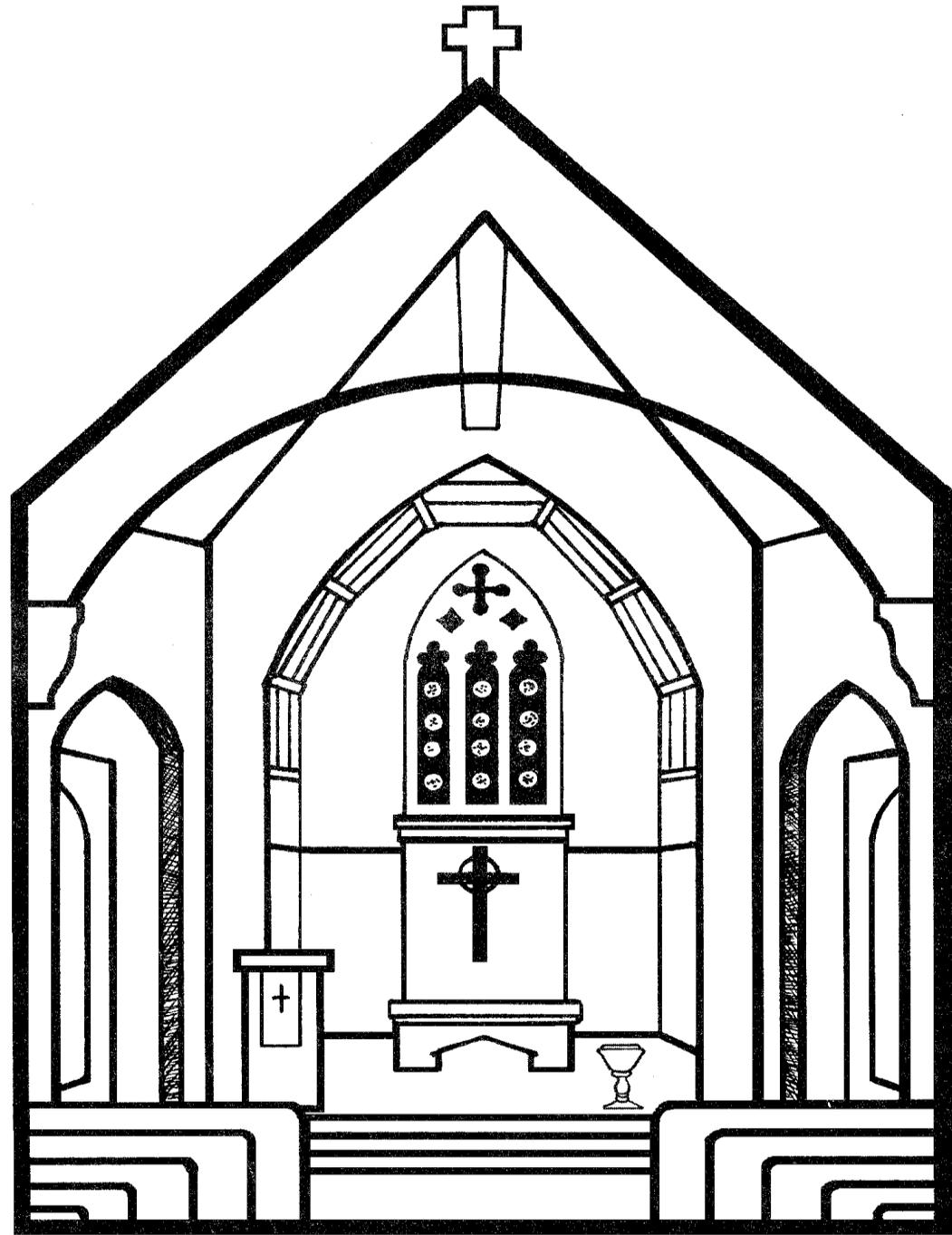
by Henri Mulet

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*Please stand, if you are able.

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

Music printed and recorded for congregational use only under CCLI # 11373529



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