

Scriptural Mediation

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of Our Church Bell

Welcome and Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ

Prelude

Meditation on 'Holy Manna'

by D. Wood

Call to Worship

One: Jesus brought healing love to all people.

All: They talked and marveled about his miracles.

One: But they really didn't understand him.

**All: They wanted the healing,
but not necessarily a change in their lives.**

One: Jesus brings us transforming compassion.

**All: Lord Jesus, keep our minds and our spirits
open to your life-changing words. Amen.**

Prayer of Invocation

***Gathering Song**

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

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***Prayer of Reconciliation**

Let us remain standing and express ourselves to God.

All: Patient Lord, you know us so well. We are fascinated by healing and can talk all day about the miracles, but we do not understand the compassion of Christ. We often say, "Just heal us; or Just make me rich; or Just make things go better at work" or other such deals and then we promise our faithfulness and witness.. But in our hearts, we just don't get it. Please forgive us, Lord, when our greed and fear gets in the way of understanding. Help us to know the transformational power of your love. Get us ready to be faithful witnesses to you in all that we say and do. It is in Jesus' Name that we pray. Amen.

***A Time for Contemplation (in quiet, for you and God)**

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

One: In the Name of Jesus Christ you have been healed.
Praise be to God who has given you new life. Amen.
Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***Gloria Patri**

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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.

God's Word for Little Ears

~Hearing God's Word~

Prayer for Understanding God's Word

Read the following in silence, then respond to the Leader.

In silence: "Holy One, you teach us that wisdom may be found in every face, every situation, every person."

(Silent Reflection)

One: God, help us to erase our fears of those who are different from us.

**All: Help us to see past our cultural prejudices and assumptions.
Help our ears and our hearts to be open to your teachings. Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

p. 604

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

My God, My King, Thy Praise I Sing

Gordon Young

New Testament Epistle

James 2:1-9, 11-17

p.229

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Lesson

Mark 7:24-37

p. 42

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Message

Expecting the Unexpected!

Pastor Kim Nelson

~Responding to God's Word~

***A Litany for the Ministry of the Laity**

On this Labor Day weekend we stand to express our affirmation.

Leader: Let us thank God for those persons who have responded to Christ's call to serve him in the world.

People: Lord, we know that you call us to love and serve our neighbor in the world in which we live.

Leader: For those who seek both to glorify you and to help their neighbor through their work:

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: For those who are actively involved in the political process of our community, state, and nation;

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: For those who work for social justice, fair housing, and equal opportunity for both sexes and all races;

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: For those who work to make our community a safe and pleasant place to live—engineers, bakers, contractors, architects, fire and police personnel;

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: For those who serve as homemakers, providing care, nourishment, and a secure haven for families;

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: For those who teach and care for our children, both salaried staff and volunteer aids;

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: For those who minister to the sick as medical professionals, as visitors or volunteers;

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: For those who visit the lonely and the shut-in, and for those who find time to listen to the troubled and distressed;

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: For those who serve the hungry, the homeless, and the unemployed;

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: For all those whose labor and effort are unseen and unsung, but who carry Christ's ministry in the world;

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: Let us thank God for the love we have experienced in Christ Jesus, who motivates and empowers us to serve others in his name;

People: We give you thanks, O Lord.

Leader: O Lord, we recall the words of your Son when he said, "I came not to be served, but to serve." He saw our needs and he ministered to us in love.

People: We thank you for calling us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We ask you to work through us, and help us always to work for you. Keep our eyes open to the possibilities around us; grant us strength and courage to serve Christ and others.

All: In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Invitation for Sharing Our Gifts

We who have been richly blessed are called to share that blessing with the world. Please give freely in the joy of serving your God and your neighbor.

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad

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

Offertory Song *Healer of Our Every Ill* # 795

***Doxology**

(Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (# 606))

**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.

***The Prayer of Dedication**

Celebration of Holy Communion

(Holy Communion in our denomination is open to all who profess in the name of Jesus Christ. You need not be a member of this congregation or any congregation to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. If you desire to follow Jesus Christ and desire to be his faithful disciple, you are welcome and encouraged to partake today.)

Communion Music *O Bread of Life from Heaven* David Ashley White

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

Sung Prayer Response #471

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me,
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me. (Repeat)**

Words & Music: Jacques Berthier © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (France).

~Going Forth to Serve God~

Life in Our Church Community

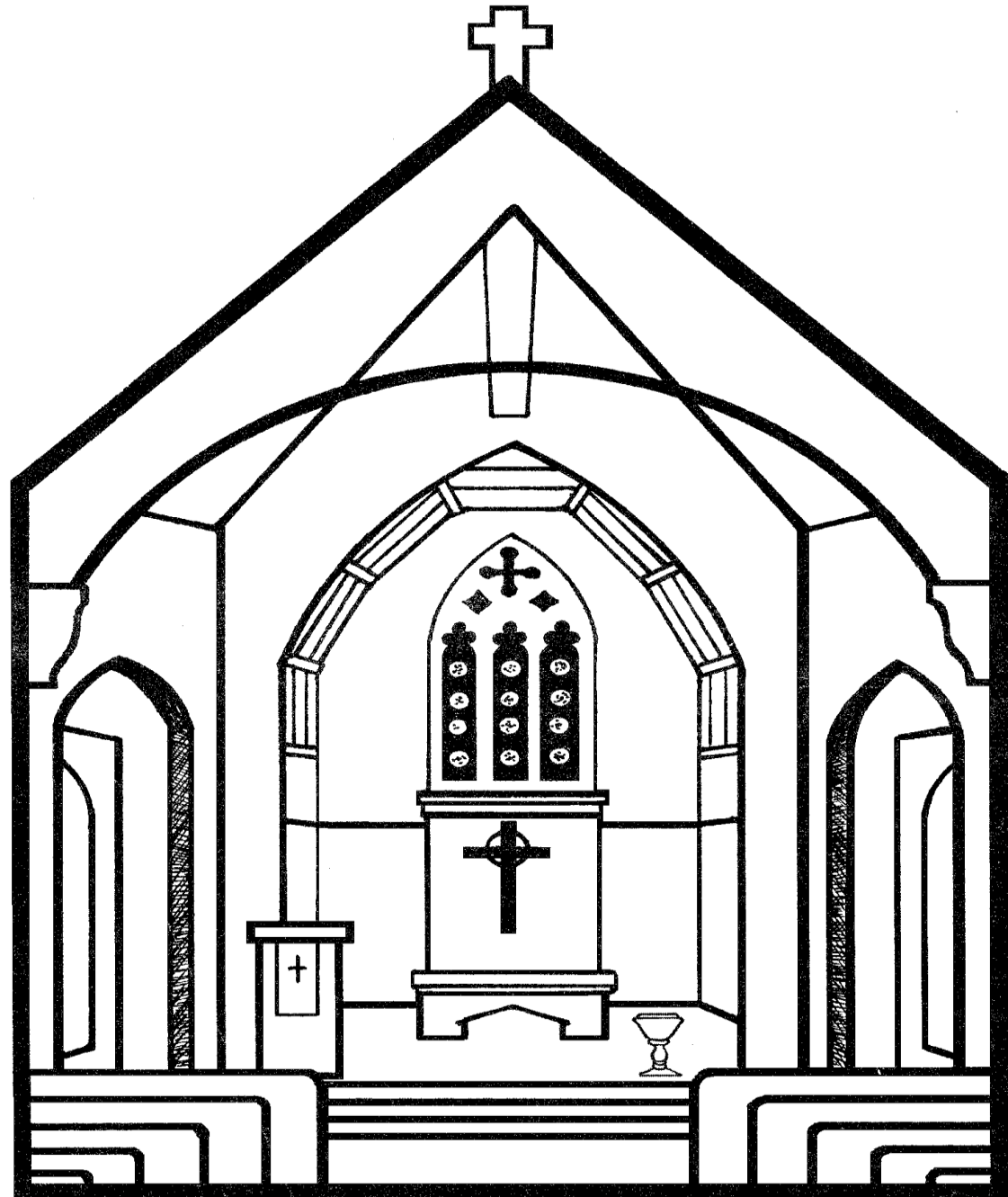
***Song of Sending Forth** *Open My Eyes, That I May See* # 451

***Benediction**

***Postlude** *Postlude in D* by H. Willan

***Please stand, if you are able.**

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



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