

**Celebration in Worship**  
**Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
**June 23, 2019**

We believe the words of Jesus reflect the heart of the Divine:  
"I will never turn away anyone who comes to me."  
John 6:37

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

Holy One, you astonish us with your generosity. You pour forth your goodness on all you have made and are not limited by the barriers we place on your grace. You constantly move the hearts of strangers as well as friends, enemies as well as neighbors. You calm the waters that rage and the fears that whisper. Let your grace flow through us here and now that we may see all peoples as you see them - beautiful, whole, deserving of mercy and justice - and let our lives be shaped by that graced vision. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who offers to all abundant life. Amen.

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** *(Responsive)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Visitors, friends, members, welcome to worship! We are glad you are here. Please feel free to participate in ways that you feel led, and comfortable if you would just like to observe. We welcome your presence and invite you to join others in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*(Based on selected verses of Psalm 22, Psalms for Praying, by Nan Merrill)*

Susan Schroeder

One: Holy One, I will tell of your name to all I meet.

**All: In the midst of assemblies I will praise you.**

One: You, who are in wonder of the Mystery, give praise! For our loving Creator does not turn away from the afflicted and does not hide from them; but their cries are heard, their prayers rise up to heaven.

**All: To you, O Beloved, I lift up my voice in the great congregation; for you promise to remain with those whose love is steadfast.**

One: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to Love's way.

**All: Posterity shall know and serve Love, telling of the One who abides in all to the coming generations.**

One: Come, let us sing praises to the God of Love!

**\*HYMN 35**

*Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

*Glory to God Hymnal*

**CALL TO CONFESSION** *(Leader)*

Knowing that God sees all there is to see, and trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin to God and to one another.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Responsive)*

Leader: We confess, O God, that we often find ourselves distracted by a legion of destructive voices that make false promises. Surely these are our inner demons.

**Lectern side: We believe safety and security can reside in ample bank accounts.**

**Pulpit side: We think that success leads to real happiness.**

**Lectern side: We equate power with dominating others.**

**Pulpit side: We hold fast to pain and anger as if they were treasure in a chest.**

**Lectern side:** We soothe our fear of failure with substances that do harm.  
**Pulpit side:** We feed our hunger for love and approval with food that does not satisfy.

**All:** Break hold of the chains that bind us, O God. Set us free from the tombs in which we dwell.

*A time of silent prayer is observed*

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### ASSURANCE

Friends, hear this good news: In Christ God calls us forth from the tomb to the light of new life. The healing power of God's forgiveness restores us to wholeness. God releases us from the chains that bind us. We are set free to be the ones we were created to be, children of God!

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### PASSING THE PEACE *(Responsive)*

*As an extension of God's hospitality, let us greet one another with the sign of God's peace.*

The Peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS      Luke 8:26-39

SERMON

*The Courage to Name Heaven*

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*HYMN 797

*We Cannot Measure How You Heal*

*Glory to God Hymnal*

### AN INVITATION TO OFFERING *(Leader)*

Jesus told the man he had healed to go home and tell everyone how much God had done for him. What if we were to look at our offering as a way to proclaim how much God has done for us? What if we were to share with the same kind of generous love that God abundantly shares with us? Let's receive now our morning offering.

### OFFERTORY

*Please use the yellow prayer request cards in the pew and place them in the offering plate to be included in the prayers of the people and/or the email prayer ministry of Central.*

### \*DOXOLOGY *(Unison)*

<b>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;</b>	<b>Praise God, the source of all our gifts!</b>
<b>Praise God, all creatures here below:</b>	<b>Praise Christ, whose mighty power uplifts!</b>
<b>Alleluia! Alleluia!</b>	<b>Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!</b>
	<b>Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!</b>

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving God, we share what we have because you share so abundantly with us. May our sharing be an act of thanksgiving and praise for all you have done and all you will continue to do for us. Bless us and our gifts, that we might be a source of help, hope, and joy to a world in need. And now, as people freed by Christ and led by the Spirit, we offer our prayers to you, Holy One, for the world, the church, and all those in need . . .

## 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 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 821

*My Life Flows On*

*Glory to God Hymnal*

## CHARGE & BENEDICTION

One: Go forth into the world with hope,

All: for no chain can bind and no tomb can contain the healing life Christ offers each of us.

One: Go and make room for quiet, still places amidst the chaos of everyday life,

All: for there we will find God.

One: Go and dare to proclaim all that God has done for you,

All: for there are many who need our good news.

One: Go, knowing that the light of God shall lead you,  
the presence of Christ shall guide you,  
and the power of the Holy Spirit shall uphold you,  
this day and always.

All: Amen.

## POSTLUDE

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