

Celebration in Worship
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
July 7, 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[^] (Leader)

God of Naomi and Ruth, in our journeys through life, we have been both broken and blessed. In solidarity, you accompany us. You receive us as we are, in our own weakness and vulnerability. For your immanent presence in our journeys, we are ever grateful. With thankful hearts we gather as your people to praise you for redeeming us. And by your Word and through your Spirit, we ask that you transform us into redeeming and reconciling people in the world. Guide us as we stand in solidarity with the millions of refugees and displaced persons across the world. Help us walk with those in need. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Redeemer. 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 in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

Kathleen Beisse

One: Come God.

Come walk with your people, for you alone are our strength and glory

All: And we put our trust in you.

One: Come God.

Come walk behind us, beside us, before us, for you alone are our shelter and direction

All: And we put our trust in you.

One: Come God.

Come seek and find and put us right, for you alone are the light in our darkness

All: And we put our trust in you.

One: Come God.

We know you are near, the sound of your footsteps sets us dancing.

All: Help us to praise and worship you.

***HYMN 804**

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

Glory to God Hymnal

CALL TO CONFESSION (Leader)

God is faithful and asks us to be faithful as well. We seek God's way, recognizing we are hindered by the baggage we carry along the journey. When we confess our sin, we offer that burden to Christ and make room for the Spirit's work in our hearts, minds, and lives. Before God, and with the people of God, let us confess together as we pray,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION[^] (Unison)

God our Redeemer, you are "our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." You accompany us in moments of blessedness and in periods of brokenness. Yet at times we fail to recognize your presence and choose instead to live in self-centered reliance as though we are in isolation. In turn, we isolate the most vulnerable; we act as though crises beyond our community do not deserve our concern. Unlike Ruth and Naomi, we give into the fear of uncertainty instead of the grace of solidarity. We confess that by expulsion or neglect, we push away those who seek refuge in our midst, ignoring that you are the Redeemer who offers refuge to all. Free us now from our suffocating isolation, that we may breathe anew your liberating Spirit, the source of all compassion, the strength of all justice. We pray in the name of Christ Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A period of silent prayer is observed.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ASSURANCE (Responsive)

Scriptures teach us that God is just, that God sets the prisoners free and lifts up those who are bowed down. We learn about a God of grace who has reconciled us to God's own self through Jesus Christ. Therefore be assured, sisters and brothers, that God liberates, Christ reconciles, and the Spirit lifts us up!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
(verses 1 & 3)

Glory to God Hymnal

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Et Misericordia" from *Magnificat*, BWV 243
Jenna Hernandez, alto, & Cole Blume, tenor

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Et misericordia a progenie in progenies, timentibus eum.

His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.

—Luke 1:50

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Ruth 1:1-22 & Matthew 5:3-9

SERMON

Loss & Loyalty

Ruth

Rev. Jennifer Martin

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 727

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

Glory to God Hymnal

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

All, including children, are invited to the Lord's Table.

We come to this Table because we are invited and not because we have any worthiness of our own that gives us a right to come. So join the community of faith as we join our Lord in this celebration of life.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE CALL TO PRAYER (Responsive)

May God watch over you!

And also over you!

Offer your hearts to the One who creates new life for those who are empty.

We bring our lives to God, the restorer of new life.

People of God, give thanks to the One who gives us all things.

We praise the One who is abundant beyond all expectations.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Once and for all, you spoke, God of overflowing gifts: we join our voices as we sing to you:

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God of grace!

All creation is filled with the bounty of your love.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who has not left us without hope.

Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, God of wonder and wisdom, and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Brother, we speak of that mystery we call faith:

Christ died, once, and it was for all;

Christ was raised, once and for all;

Christ will return for those who wait for him to bring them home to God,

Once and for all offer glad songs of joy to you, God of all, Holy three in One. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Homebound Communion basket represents the extension of the Lord's Supper from this gathered community to our homebound members through the ministry of our deacons. May we continue to remember the faithful service of all the saints of the church.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

HYMN DURING COMMUNION 507

Come to the Table of Grace

Glory to God Hymnal

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table, it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of peace . . .

Come to the table of love . . .

Come to the table of hope . . .

Come to the table of joy . . .

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be through you still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.

AN INVITATION TO OFFERING[^] *(Leader)*

Today we read of the encounter between two refugees, Naomi and Ruth. Naomi is a refugee in Moab due to famine in Judah, and Ruth is a refugee due to patriarchal systems that rendered single women utterly vulnerable. Both Naomi and Ruth took refuge in Naomi's land, and they survived such tumultuous transitions because each one gave the greatest gift: their very selves. We seek to do the same by following God's command to love. Through our giving of financial resources entrusted to us, we are able as a Church to help others. Among many other ministries, one thing we support are efforts in our community to help refugees as they seek to rebuild their lives. It is a beginning of our call to give. Let us give joyously and generously of our finances, our time, and our talents.

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)*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Christ, whose mighty power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER[^]**

For your divine providence, we thank you, ever-generous Creator. In responsive humility, we bring to you these gifts of our material possessions. We entrust them to you so that through them your Church may live out its call of solidarity and accompaniment. May the witness and work made possible by our tithes and offerings comfort and empower those seeking refuge, that all refugees and displaced persons may be able to sing with peace and joy "the Lord's song in a foreign land." Trusting your faithfulness, we also bring before you the prayers of our community . . .

**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 53**

O God, Who Gives Us Life

Glory to God Hymnal

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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[^]These portions of today's liturgy are adapted from Week of Compassion worship resources
www.weekofcompassion.org).

****** This portion of today's liturgy is from *The Patter of Our Days*, from the Iona Community, Kathy Galoway ed., Wild Goose Publications.