

Sunday Worship Service – July 4, 2021
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Service of Lament¹ - From Lament to Praise

Prelude – Joshua Hendricksen

Welcome and Announcements

Moment for Reflection

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Introduction

Invocation

P We are gathered together as one people before God.

C **Listen to our cries, Creator of us all.**

P We turn our voices to you;

C **Listen to our cries, Saviour of us all.**

P We call to you for help;

C **Listen to our cries, Comforter of us all.**

Lament

P There is much suffering in our lives!

C **Where are you God?**

P There is much despair in this community!

C **Where are you God?**

P There is much corruption in this world!

C **Where are you God?**

Silence for reflection

P There are times when you are hidden God.

C **How long must we wait?**

P There are times when your presence is not known.

C **How long must we suffer?**

P There are times when our lives are filled with darkness.

¹ Worship Supplement, p.75-78

C How long must we wander, lost and alone?

Silence for reflection

P Some of us suffer pain.

C Why God?

P Some of us suffer loss.

C Why God?

P Some of us suffer guilt and doubt.

C Why God?

Silence for reflection

P Hear us God, for we are troubled, we are angry, we are hurting, and we are in need.

C Listen to our cries, as a loving parent listens to a child in need.

Prayer of Confession²

Mighty God, how often we go astray. Forgive us when we misuse the power you have given us. Forgive us when we don't follow where you are leading us. Forgive us when we neglect to serve the ones who need us. Be our strength. Be our guide. Lead us back to you, that we might embrace your power and strength, and bring your justice and righteousness to our world. Reveal where we are most needed, that we might serve and love faithfully.

Words of Assurance

God's grace is enough – it strengthens every weakness, forgives every sin, and empowers us for the journey of faith. Rejoice, for grace sets us free to love and serve!

Opening Hymn "God, When Human Bonds Are Broken" #603

- 1. God, when human bonds are broken and we lack the love or skill to restore the hope of healing, give us grace and make us still.**
- 2. Through that stillness, with your Spirit come into our world of stress, for the sake of Christ forgiving all the failures we confess.**

² 2018 Abingdon

3. **You in us are bruised and broken: hear us as we seek release from the pain of earlier living; set us free and grant us peace.**
4. **Send us, God of new beginnings, humbly hopeful into life. Use us as a means of blessing: make us stronger, give us faith.**
5. **Give us faith to be more faithful, give us hope to be more true, give us love to go on learning: God, encourage and renew!**

Prayer of the Day

God who made the heavens and the earth, there is no place where you cannot reach. God who is with us, Jesus the Christ, there is no journey which you have not traveled. God who is Spirit, the Comforter, there are no people beyond your care. Stay with us with your love and kindness and lighten our darkness with your consolation and blessing; when tragedy and disaster and distress touches our lives, it is you that we turn with our questions and our need for reassurance and comfort. It is you who provides healing and gives us hope. Amen.

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

The reading from 2 Corinthians chapter 12 tells us that Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ's grace is sufficient for us.

A reading from 2 Corinthians chapter 12 beginning at the 2nd verse:

I know someone who fourteen years ago was caught up in the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—only God knows. And I know that this person—whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know, only God knows— was caught up to paradise to hear words that cannot be uttered, words that no one may speak. About this person I will boast, but I will do no boasting about myself, unless it be about my weaknesses. And even if I were to boast, it wouldn't be foolish of me, because I am speaking the truth.

But I refrain, so that no one will think more of me than is justified by what I do or say. Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh—a messenger of Satan to beat me—to keep me from exalting myself! Three times I begged God that it might leave me. And God said to me “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I would rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. So I am content with weakness, with mistreatment, with distress, with persecutions and difficulties for the sake of Christ; when I am powerless, it is then that I am strong.

Here ends the reading. **Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.**

Hymn "Healer of Our Every Ill" #612

Refrain

**Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.**

- 1. You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.**

Refrain

- 2. In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love.**

Refrain

- 3. Give us strength to love each other, ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.**

Refrain

- 4. You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.**

Refrain

Gospel Reading: Mark 6:1-13

In today's gospel we hear that at home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God's word and relieve affliction.

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 6th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After leaving there, Jesus came into his own town, followed by the disciples. When the sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and the many listeners were astonished and said, “Where did he learn all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted, and these miracles that are performed by his hands? Isn’t this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joses and Judah and Simon? Are not his sisters here with us?” They found these things to be stumbling blocks.

Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometowns and among their own relatives and in their own households.” And he could work no miracles there, apart from laying his hands upon a few sick people and healing them; their lack of faith astounded him. He made the rounds of the neighboring villages instead, and spent the time teaching.

Then Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs, giving them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them that they should take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts. They were to wear sandals but, he added, “Do not take a spare tunic.”

And Jesus said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town. Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you leave it, shake off the dust from the soles of your feet as a testimony against them.”

And so they set off, proclaiming repentance as they went. They cast out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *“Thy Holy Wings”* #613

1. Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev’ry moment be lived within thy grace.

2. **Oh, let me nestle near thee, within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care.**
3. **Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.**

Statement of Faith - A New Creed³

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

**We believe in God who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church, to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,**

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer Petitions

Lord's Prayer (*traditional*)

Offering⁴

Gracious God, you teach us to look for your presence and power in the midst of vulnerability and need. May those who receive the gifts we have given experience your presence in new and amazing ways. May your power rest upon them, lift them up, heal them, and draw them near to you. Amen.

³ *Voices United: The Hymn and Worship Book of the United Church of Canada*, p.918, The United Church Publishing House, 1996.

⁴ *Abingdon 2015*

Vow of Praise

P We will praise the greatness of the Lord.

C We rely on God's constant love.

P We will be glad because God is with us.

C We rely on God's constant love.

P We will sing to the Lord because of the goodness shown to us.

C We rely on God's constant love.

P O Sing to the Lord a new song.

C For God's mercy endures forever.

Closing Hymn "O Day Full of Grace" #627 (v.1,2,4)

1. **O day full of grace that now we see appearing on earth's horizon,
bring light from our God that we may be abundant in his joy this season.
God, shine for us now in this dark place; your name on our hearts emblazon.**
2. **O day full of grace, O blessed time, our Lord on the earth arriving;
then came to the world that light sublime, great joy for us all retrieving;
for Jesus all mortals did embrace, all shame and despair removing.**
4. **God came to us then at Pentecost, the Spirit new life revealing,
that we might no more in death be lost, its pow'r over us dispelling.
This flame will the mark of sin efface and bring to us all true healing.**

Blessing⁵

Go in confidence. Know that God goes with you to give you words of hope, comfort and peace. May God's love flow through you to all those whom you meet. Amen.

Commissioning

Live in peace, inspired by Christ to love and serve. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude – Joshua Hendricksen

Sources:

Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from *The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*.

⁵ <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/2916/worship-connection-july-4-2021>