

Sunday Worship Service – July 18, 2021

Prelude – Joshua Hendricksen

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Call to Worship ¹

Welcome, friends and strangers,
long-timers and newcomers,
those from nearby and far off.

We gather as one because Christ is our peace.

We gather as the temple where God lives
through the Spirit.

**We gather with Christ Jesus as our cornerstone,
the one who joins us together.**

Hear the good news of peace that brings us together.

**With our brothers and sisters,
we are no longer strangers, but residents with God.**

Opening Prayer

Jesus Christ, our Peace, our Cornerstone,
we come from a world of division
longing for the promise and good news of your peace.
Remind us again of your work of reconciliation—
reconciliation that breaks down the barriers of hatred
in our communities and our own lives,
and between nations and peoples.
Make of us a place of belonging and peace,
where you may dwell in joy,
in the name of the God of Sure Promises
and of the indwelling Spirit. Amen.

Gathering Hymn *“O Day of Rest and Gladness”* #521 (Verses 1,2,4)

- O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm for care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright:
on you the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
sing, “Holy, holy, holy,” to the great God triune.**

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2. **On you, at earth's creation, the light first had its birth;
on you, for our salvation, Christ rose from depths of earth;
on you, our Lord victorious the Spirit sent from heav'n;
and thus on you, most glorious, a threefold light was giv'n.**
4. **New graces ever gaining from this our day of rest,
we reach the rest remaining to spirits of the blest.
We sing to you our praises, O Father, Spirit, Son;
the Church its voice upraises to you, blest Three in One.**

Prayer of Confession ²

**Guiding, guardian God,
we do not want to be like sheep without a shepherd,
or strangers wandering alone in the world.
We want to know your presence, and trust that you dwell within us.
We yearn for conviction that your Spirit flows in and through us.
Fill us when we are empty.
Forgive us when we are wrong.
Guide us when we are lost.
Comfort us when we are tired.
Reconcile us when we are disconnected,
and guard our lives with your indwelling Spirit.
In your loving name, we pray. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Mark writes: "When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them." This compassionate Jesus also looks upon us and brings us near—to him and to one another. We are forgiven and made new by the One who builds us into the very place where God lives.

Hymn of Praise "Oh, Praise the Gracious Power" #651 (Verses 1-4)

1. **Oh, praise the gracious pow'r that tumbles walls of fear
and gathers in one house of faith all strangers far and near:
We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!**
2. **Oh, praise persistent truth that opens fistled minds
and eases from their anxious clutch the prejudice that blinds:
We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!**

² from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2018*. © 2017 Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

3. **Oh, praise inclusive love, encircling ev'ry race,
oblivious to gender, wealth, to social rank or place:
We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!**
4. **Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
a living temple built on Christ, our rock and cornerstone:
We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!**

Prayer of the Day

**O God, powerful and compassionate,
you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us.
Heal each of us, and make us a whole people,
that we may embody the justice and peace of your Song,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 23:1–6

Watch out, you shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture, declares the LORD. This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, proclaims about the shepherds who “tend to” my people: You are the ones who have scattered my flock and driven them away. You haven’t attended to their needs, so I will take revenge on you for the terrible things you have done to them, declares the LORD. I myself will gather the few remaining sheep from all the countries where I have driven them. I will bring them back to their pasture, and they will be fruitful and multiply. I will place over them shepherds who care for them. Then they will no longer be afraid or dread harm, nor will any be missing, declares the LORD.

The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up a righteous descendant from David’s line, and he will rule as a wise king. He will do what is just and right in the land. During his lifetime, Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And his name will be The LORD Is Our Righteousness.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Hymn based on Psalm 23 “Shepherd Me, O God” #780

Refrain: **Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.**

1. **God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. (*Refrain*)**

2. **Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. *(Refrain)***
3. **Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. *(Refrain)***
4. **You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my power to hold. *(Refrain)***
5. **Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. *(Refrain)***

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:11–22

So remember that once you were Gentiles by physical descent, who were called “uncircumcised” by Jews who are physically circumcised. At that time you were without Christ. You were aliens rather than citizens of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of God’s promise. In this world you had no hope and no God. But now, thanks to Christ Jesus, you who once were so far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us. He canceled the detailed rules of the Law so that he could create one new person out of the two groups, making peace. He reconciled them both as one body to God by the cross, which ended the hostility to God.

When he came, he announced the good news of peace to you who were far away from God and to those who were near. We both have access to the Father through Christ by the one Spirit. So now you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God’s people, and you belong to God’s household. As God’s household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. The whole building is joined together in him, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord. Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Gospel Acclamation “Oh, Praise the Gracious Power” #651 (verses 6,7)

6. **Oh, praise the pow’r, the truth, the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified:
We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!**
7. **Oh, praise the living Christ with faith’s bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world and with these words rejoice:
We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!**

Gospel Reading: Mark 6:30–34, 53–56

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 6th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. Many people were coming and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, “Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while.” They departed in a boat by themselves for a deserted place.

Many people saw them leaving and recognized them, so they ran ahead from all the cities and arrived before them. When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

When Jesus and his disciples had crossed the lake, they landed at Gennesaret, anchored the boat, and came ashore. People immediately recognized Jesus and ran around that whole region bringing sick people on their mats to wherever they heard he was. Wherever he went – villages, cities, or farming communities – they would place the sick in the marketplaces and beg him to allow them to touch even the hem of his clothing. Everyone who touched him was healed.

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon:

Hymn of the Day “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” #645 (sung to #275)

1. **Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion’s help forever and our confidence alone.**

2. **To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay; come with all your loving-kindness, hear your people as they pray, and your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.**
3. **Here bestow on all your servants what they seek from you to gain; what they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain; and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.**
4. **Praise and honor to the Father, praise and honor to the Son, praise and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one: one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!**

Affirmation of Faith ³

We believe in God in whom is power and compassion.

**We believe in the Creator
who gave birth to the universe,
set solar systems dancing in space,
shaped molecules and mountains,
and conceived beauty beyond our imagining.**

**God's power topples tyrants,
and brings down walls of separation;
God's love embodies the tenderness
of a mother and father,
encouraging and caring for each of us.**

**We believe in Jesus,
born in obscurity in an occupied land;
a human being, vulnerable to hunger, thirst, persecution and grief.
He understood the power of love and confronted the powers of evil,
spoke the truth with courage and clarity,
forgave his enemies and changed lives.
In his living, dying and rising again
he showed love strong enough to save the world.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit
who sustains, comforts and empowers us,
opens the scriptures, opens our minds,
and illuminates earth's darkness. Amen.**

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Prayers of Intercession

Each petition will end with: Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Offering Prayer ⁴

Holy Spirit, flow through these gifts we return to you now.
Dwell in them, as you dwell in us,
that others may know your abiding presence and your steadfast love.
In your holy presence, we pray. Amen.

Doxology *"Praise God the Source of Life and Birth"* ⁵

**Praise God the Source of life and birth,
praise God the Word, who came to earth.
Praise God the Spirit, holy flame.
All glory, honour to God's name.**

Blessing ⁶

May God be a bright flame before you,
a guiding star above you,
a smooth path below you,
a kindly shepherd behind you,
today and tomorrow and for ever. Amen.

Commission

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

Postlude – Joshua Hendricksen

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⁵ Text by Ruth Duck. © 1990 The Pilgrim Press. From *Common Praise* – The Anglican Church of Canada.

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