

Sunday Worship Service – September 12, 2021
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship Supplement – Holy Communion Alternate Setting Four
Caring Ministry Sunday

Prelude – Joshua Hendricksen

Welcome and Announcements

Moment for Reflection

Lighting of the Altar Candles – usher

Call to Worship

The creator of the universe bids us come to worship;
let us come in awe, reverence, and eager anticipation.

We gather in unity with other Christians, for in Christ we are one body.

We are together to learn, to care for one another,
and to gain strength for our common ministry.

**We need one another to discern God’s will,
and we depend on one another to carry it out.**

The Spirit of God is upon us, teaching and empowering.
The joy of God is our strength, today and always.

**We open ourselves to the word of life
as we lift up hands and hearts to the source of help.**

Gathering Hymn “*This Is My Father’s World*” #824

1. This is my Father’s world, and to my list’ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father’s world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.
2. This is my Father’s world; the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker’s praise.
This is my Father’s world; he shines in all that’s fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev’rywhere.

3. **This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!**

Confession

Eternal God, we pray that you will listen as we confess our failures in love and friendship. We have talked about such things as caring, community and concern, but instead have shown anger, hostility and greed. We have talked about love, faith and hope, but have shown injustice, distrust, and apathy. We have talked about kindness, forgiveness and gentleness, but yet have shown disregard, spite, and selfishness. Forgive the sin of our fallen condition; the sins of our broken promises; the sins that we dare not name. In the name of Jesus who was crucified for sin, forgive us.

(silence for reflection)

Words of Forgiveness

This is how God showed love for us; Jesus came into the world that we might have life. This is what love is. It is not that we have loved God, but that God loved us and sent Jesus to be the means by which our sins are forgiven.

Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

God of wisdom and truth, speak to us now. Inspire us with your word.

Speak clearly to our hearts, that we may walk in your ways

and live in your love. In the name of Christ, our messiah, we pray. Amen.

James 3:1-12

This reading from the letter to James uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be.

Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

Only a few of you, my sisters and brothers, should be teachers. You should realize that those of us who are teachers will be called to a stricter account. After all, each of us falls from time to time.

However, those who never say anything wrong are truly close to perfection, because they can then control every part of themselves. Once we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we control the rest of their bodies. The same with ships—no matter how large they are, and even if they are driven by fierce winds, they are directed by a very small rudder to wherever the captain wants to go.

The tongue is like that. It's a small part of the body, yet it makes great boasts. See how tiny the spark is that sets a huge forest ablaze! The tongue is such a flame. Among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a whole wicked world in itself. It infects the entire body. Its flames encircle our course from birth, and its fire is kindled by hell. All kinds of animals—birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea—can be tamed by us, but no one can tame the tongue. It's a restless evil, full of deadly poison. We use it to say, "Praised be our God and Creator"; then we use it to curse each other—we who are created in the image of God. Blessing and curse come out of the same mouth. This shouldn't be, my sisters and brothers! Does a spring emit both pure water and brackish water? My sisters and brothers, can a fig tree produce olives, or can a grapevine produce figs? No—and neither can a fountain produce both salt water and fresh water.

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

Gospel Acclamation "Word of God, Come Down on Earth" #510 (verses 1, 3)

1. **Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.**
3. **Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us, Word of life, with one bread feed us.**

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 8th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then he and the disciples set out for the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way, Jesus asked the disciples this question: "Who do people say that I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptizer; others, Elijah; still others, one of the prophets."

"And you," he went on to ask, "who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Messiah!" But Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Promised One had to suffer much, be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and religious scholars, be put to death, and rise again three days later. Jesus said these things quite openly. Peter then took him aside and began to take issue with him.

At this, Jesus turned around and, eyeing the disciples, reprimanded Peter: "Get out of my sight, you Satan! You are judging by human standards rather than by God's!"

Jesus summoned the crowd and the disciples and said, "If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very self, take up your cross and follow in my footsteps. If you would save your life, you'll lose it, but if you lose your life for my sake, you'll save it. What would you gain if you were to win the whole world but lose yourself in the process? What can you offer in exchange for your soul? Whoever in this faithless and corrupt generation is ashamed of me and my words will find, in turn, that the Promised One and the holy angels will be ashamed of that person, when all stand before our God in glory."

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”* #659

1. Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.
5. Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

Introducing the Caring Ministry Team (CMT)

Commissioning of the Caring Ministry Planning Team (CMPT)

Commissioning of a Stephen Leader – Dreena Davis

Statement of Faith

DH We believe in God, who created all that exists and continues to recreate the lives of those who trust. We believe in Jesus Christ, the only Son of a loving God; whose purpose was to save a lost world and who now works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.

We believe that God is calling each of us to be part of the body of Christ, to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to stand against the powers of injustice and prejudice, and to declare for all the world to hear, "Jesus is risen and we are His people." Thanks be to God.

Prayers of Intercession

Offering/Offertory Prayer

Holy One, whose heart abounds with gifts; receive this offering as a sign of our desire to live our lives inspired by your Spirit. We dedicate our lives, and all that we have, to the work of your kingdom — the work of life, of love, of peace. Use our gifts, and lead us in wisdom and courage. As we seek to serve surround us with your mercy. Amen.

Communion Liturgy

Welcome to the celebration!

God who supplies our every need has given us this meal to share.

We have come to share in the table that Jesus, the servant king, has prepared for us.

Jesus took the bad news of sin and guilt and changed it to good news through dying and rising for us.

We are here to celebrate that good news and the presence of Christ with us.

Words of Institution

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.**

Communion

Communion Hymn "*Eat This Bread*" #472

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst. (3x)

Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Thank you, O Holy One, for the wholeness that you have given to us through receiving the presence of Jesus the Christ. Give us courage to live in ways that give life and celebrate living! Amen.

Closing Hymn “*Now Thank We All Our God*” #840

1. **Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers’ arms, has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**
2. **Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.**
3. **All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav’n adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

Benediction

Like a rock, **God is under our feet.**

Like a roof, **God is over our heads.**

Like the horizon, **God is beyond us.**

Like water in a pitcher, **God is within us and in the pouring out of us.**

Like a pebble in the sea, **We are in God.**

Let us go out and change our world **as God has changed our lives. Amen.**

Commission

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.