

## **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

## **CLOSING SONG**

### *The River Is Here*

Down the mountain the river flows  
And it brings refreshing wherever it goes.  
Through the valleys and over the fields,  
The river is rushing and the river is here.

*Chorus:* The river of God sets our feet to dancing,  
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer;  
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter  
And we rejoice for the river is here.

The river of God is teeming with life,  
And all who touch it can be revived.  
And all who linger on this river's shore  
Will come back thirsting for more of the Lord. *Chorus*

Up to the mountain we love to go  
To find the presence of the Lord.  
Along the banks of the river we run,  
We dance with laughter, giving praise to the Son. *Chorus*

# *The Gathering*

## **The Third Sunday after Pentecost**

June 13, 2021



## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Preacher: Rev. Paul E. Shoemaker  
Praise Team: Annette Carbaugh, Praise Leader  
Todd Phillips, Keyboard  
Tobias Oo, KoKo Oo, Peter Czubakowski, Instrumental  
Vocals: Pau Thupha Thang  
Acolyte: Zion Kinnee  
Elder: Dan Krinn

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# † The Third Sunday after Pentecost †

The Gathering ~ June 13, 2021

**AS WE GATHER** ~ Though much is made of the smallness of the mustard seed, the focus of Jesus is on outcome—the plant that becomes large enough to give nest and shade to all the birds of the air. The kingdom of God seems small and even irrelevant in the face of large problems, challenges, and problems of this mortal life, and yet it is the kingdom of God that is great. God gives to us the forgiveness that makes a clear conscience, the life that is stronger than death, and the joy that is greater than every joy this world can deliver. In this way, the small seed makes for a great plant, large enough for us to find refuge and a home in its shade. How the kingdom of God grows may seem part of the mystery, but we know that it is a seed planted in the good soil and fed and nourished by God's grace to the day when the harvest delivers us into His presence forevermore.

## PRE-SERVICE PRAISE

### *Shout to the Lord*

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like You,  
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love;  
My Comfort, my shelter, Tower of refuge and strength;  
Let ev'ry breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.      *Chorus*

*Chorus:*      Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing

Power and majesty, praise to the King;  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
At the sound of Your name.  
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,  
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand;  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.      *Repeat all*

## WELCOME/SHARING OF THE PEACE

## OPENING SONG

### *Power of Your Love*

Lord, I come to You, let my heart be changed, renewed,  
Flowing from the grace that I found in You.  
And, Lord, I've come to know the weaknesses I see in me  
Will be stripped away by the pow'r of Your love.

*Chorus:*

2

Hold me close, let Your love surround me;  
Bring me near, draw me to Your side  
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle, and I will soar with You.  
Your Spirit leads me on in the pow'r of Your love.

Lord, unveil my eyes, let me see You face to face,  
The knowledge of Your love as You live in me.

Lord, renew my mind, as Your will unfolds in my life,  
In living ev'ry day in the pow'r of Your love.      *Chorus*

## INVOCATION

Pastor:      In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People:      Amen.

## CONFESION and ABSOLUTION

(Psalm 1:5-6)

Pastor:      Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

People:      for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

*Silence for self-examination.*

Pastor:      Holy and gracious God,

People:      I confess that I have sinned against You, in thought, word, and deed,  
by what I have done, and by what I have not done. Some of my sin I  
know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—  
but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, my  
Savior, I ask forgiveness and pray You to deliver and restore me by  
Your mercy. Amen.

Pastor:      Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to  
us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. As a called and  
ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all  
your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy  
Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to  
completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People:      Amen.

**PSALM 1**

Pastor: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

People: **but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.**

Pastor: He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

People: **The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

Pastor: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

People: **for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

All: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**SONG OF PRAISE***Better Is One Day*

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord almighty.  
For my soul longs and even faints for You.  
For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence.  
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

*Chorus:* Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,  
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere. *Repeat*

One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your beauty,  
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.  
One thing I ask and I would seek: to see your beauty,  
To find You in the place Your glory dwells. *Chorus*

My heart and flesh cry out for You, the living God.  
Your Spirit's water to my soul. I've tasted and I've seen.  
Come once again to me. I will draw near to You,  
I will draw near to You, to You.  
Better is one day, better is one day, better is one day than thousands elsewhere.

*Repeat and Chorus*

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.  
Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING****Ezekiel 17:22-24 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: “I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. <sup>23</sup>On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. <sup>24</sup>And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it.”

**EPISTLE READING****2 Corinthians 5:1-10 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup>For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup>if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup>He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

<sup>6</sup>So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

**ANCIENT WORDS**

Ancient words ever true changing me, and changing you.

We have come with open hearts oh, let the ancient words impart.

**GOSPEL LESSON****Mark 4:26-34 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground.

<sup>27</sup>He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.

<sup>28</sup>The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the

ear. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has

come.”

<sup>30</sup>And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it.

<sup>34</sup>He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

**ANCIENT WORDS**

Ancient words ever true changing me, and changing you.

We have come with open hearts oh, let the ancient words impart.

**SONG OF THE DAY*****My Faith Looks Up To Thee***

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,

O let me from this day be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;

As Thou hast died for me, O may my love to Thee

Pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread and grieves around me spread, be Thou my guide;

Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,

Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

When ends life's passing dream,

When death's cold threatening stream shall oe'r me roll,

Blest Savior, then in love, fear and distrust remove;

O lift me safe above, a ransomed soul!

**MESSAGE****Forever with the Lord****2 Corinthians 5:1-10**

I. Our “earthly tent” longs to put on our \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Our spirit longs to be with \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Our body, this “tent,” groans, being \_\_\_\_\_.

II. We would rather be with the \_\_\_\_\_.

A. We desire to depart and be with \_\_\_\_\_.

B. We make it our aim to \_\_\_\_\_.

III. We shall be with the Lord \_\_\_\_\_.

A. We must all appear before the \_\_\_\_\_.

B. We shall receive good because of the merits of \_\_\_\_\_.

**STATEMENT OF FAITH - THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**PRAAYER OF THE DAY****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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.