

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JUNE 21, 2020**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: O LORD, LOOK DOWN FROM HEAVEN - J. Pachelbel

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of sparrows and elephants, of earth and sky, of the great and the small, you stand with us when we are hurting, when we are frightened, when there is danger. You are with us today, and always, loving us and caring for us, even when we do not see you or hear you or feel you. As we live in your steadfast love, may we live boldly, faithfully, and joyfully. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: Into our wilderness, God comes and says, "Do not be afraid for I have heard your voice."

Unison: Out of the shadows of fear and into the light of faith, we come, O God.

Pastor: When we ask for a sign of love, God comes and provides all that we need.

Unison: Out of the shadows of fear and into the light of faith, we come, O God.

Pastor: Old ways are discarded and we are made alive with Christ.

Unison: Out of the shadows of fear and into the light of faith, we come, O God.

Pastor: Jesus says, "Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

Unison: Out of the shadows of fear and into the light of faith, we come, O God.

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Pastor: Sometimes, the hard words of Jesus confuse us and frighten us. Sometimes, we wonder how to be faithful when our faith makes other people dislike us or distrust us or fear us.

Unison: How can we not be afraid?

Pastor: Sometimes, speaking up to defend someone who has been accused wrongly, or finding resources to share with others, or telling the truth

when a lie is easier, or facing up to bullying without backing down, seem too frightening to bear.

Unison: How can we not be afraid?

Pastor: Sometimes, we want to run away, to ignore the problems, to be silent when someone needs our help, to save our money or our time or our talent for ourselves. Sometimes our fear controls us.

Unison: How can we not be afraid?

People: Forgive us when we allow fear to overtake us, and we doubt your presence. Fill our spirits with the strength you offer, comfort our hearts with the courage you offer, open us to the grace you offer, and grant us the trust to believe in your love supporting us.

Unison: Comfort and sustain us, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Genesis 21: 8 – 21

New Testament: Matthew 10:24 – 39

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC: ONE - U2

- Darin Jellison

SERMON: *Between a Rock And a Hard Place*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Pastor: When we expend great efforts on a good cause
and see little result for our labour,
God of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Jesus,

Unison: We believe in you, please save us from our unbelief.

Pastor: When we profoundly and faithfully seek the healing of a friend,
but to no avail,
God of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Jesus,

Unison: We believe in you, please save us from our unbelief.

Pastor: When we witness by word and deed to the Gospel
yet see no obvious fruits,
God of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Jesus,

Unison: We believe in you, please save us from our unbelief.

Pastor: When disasters happen to the faithful,
while unbelievers flaunt their prosperity,
God of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Jesus,

Unison: We believe in you, please save us from our unbelief.

Pastor: When we pray with anguish over a lost soul

but see no change for the better,

God of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Jesus,

Unison: We believe in you, please save us from our unbelief.

Pastor: When we get so frustrated with our own failures

that we become carping critics of others,

God of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Jesus,

Unison: We believe in you, please save us from our unbelief.

Pastor: When we seem tempted beyond that which any mortal should have to bear,

God of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Jesus,

Unison: We believe in you, please save us from our unbelief.

Pastor: When we are weary of body and soul,

and feel like retreating into a closed-off piety,

God of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Jesus,

Unison: We believe in you, please save us from our unbelief.

For yours is the kingdom of unlimited opportunities,

the innovative and resilient power of saving love,

and the surging glory of the love which never ends

Amen!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Divine Caregiver, you have counted the hairs on our head and your loving eye is always upon us. Show us where we might move out with confidence to speak bravely of your way, even if the consequences seem hard to bear.

(pause)

We pray to you, O God,

Unison: grant us the courage and compassion to live for you.

Pastor: Holy Sparrow Creator you take delight in the smallest creature and your compassion sustains all of Creation. Conceive your selfless love within our hearts and birth within us the desire to give voice where the voice has been silenced.

(pause)

We pray to you, O God,

Unison: grant us the courage and compassion to live for you.

Pastor: Eternal God, we have no reason to fear for we know that, in life or in death, we will always belong to you. Mindful of your presence, help us to live out of this truth, even when the future seems cloudy and uncertain.

(pause).

We pray to you, O God,

Unison: grant us the courage and compassion to live for you.

Pause for private intercessions

Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass.

We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;

Unison: 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.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

NEWS FROM THE PEWS - *The Maginn Family*

SPECIAL MUSIC: *LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING*

- J. Rosamond Johnson & James Weldon Johnson
performed by *Committed*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unison: Great and loving God, who hears the cries of all people, and who proclaims each and every one of us to be of great worth: take these gifts we offer. May our giving help your church to proclaim the gospel of justice and truth throughout the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

**CLOSING HYMN: *SING PRAISE TO GOD OUR GREATEST GOOD*
BENEDICTION**

Pastor: God tells us, "Do not be afraid!"

Unison: Jesus tells us, "Have no fear!"

Pastor: Paul tells us, "Death no longer has dominion..."

Unison: The psalmist tells us, "God is abounding in steadfast love."

Pastor: Let us go out to our work unafraid.

Unison: Let us go out to our ministries, confident that God is with us.

Pastor: Let us go out to our discipleship in newness of life.

Unison: Let us go out to our service with grace and strength.

Pastor: Where God leads, we go with confidence. Where God sends, we go with faith.

Unison: Amen.

POSTLUDE: *MY INMOST HEART NOW REJOICES* - J. C. Bach

Special thanks to the Maginn Family for sharing their greeting with us, to Darin Jellison for special music, and to Autumn Kandt for editing the service. Blessings to all!