

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 5, 2020**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE YOU - Beethoven*

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of Sabbath promise, you created not only work but the blessing of rest. Often we feel exhausted, overstressed, and overwhelmed, in need of renewal and refreshment, – to be re-created. Help us to take up your invitation of respite for our souls and spirits, of comfort for our bodies and minds, of a pause for quiet, for sabbatical, for holiday. Open us to receive your gentling Spirit and your relaxing presence.

Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: *FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: God invites all who are weary to come. Come now with the burdens of work, home, and community. Jesus promises,

Unison: **I will give you rest.**

Pastor: God invites all who are weary to come. Come now with the burdens of illness, of fear, of hopelessness. Jesus promises,

Unison: **I will give you rest.**

Pastor: God invites all who are weary to come. Come now with the burdens of anger, of prejudice, of alienation. Jesus promises,

Unison: **I will give you rest.**

Pastor: God invites all who are weary to come. God invites all who are weary to lay down their burdens. God invites all who are weary to find peace.

Unison: **We gather in hope and to rest in God.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

God of new life, we come to this time and place, feeling raw and vulnerable. We know that too often we forget about your constant love; we look for love in all the wrong places, and we put our trust in life and all the wrong things. And yet, we continue to come, bearing the hope of transformation that is only possible in and through you. Amen.

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Ron Demkee

Old Testament: Micah 4:1 – 3

New Testament: Matthew 25:31 – 33

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN: *LET JUSTICE FLOW LIKE STREAMS*

SERMON: *A Work In Progress*

SPECIAL MUSIC: *I BELIEVE* - Mark A. Miller

The Harmonium Choir

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

**Unison: By his mighty power
God raised from the dead
our Lord Jesus Christ
and seated him at his right hand in heaven;
far above all rule and authority,
power and dominion,
and every title that can be given,
not only in the present age
but also in the age to come.**

**God placed all things under his feet
and appointed him
to be head over everything
for the Church,
which is his body,
the fullness of him who fills everything
everywhere and always. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Pastor: Oh God of the black, the white, the brown and . . . the blue,
Oh God of Keith Lamont Scott, of Justin Carr,
and . . . of Brently Vinson and of their grieving, troubled families,
Oh God of those in our streets
bearing the oppressive weight of armor and armaments,
and of those in our streets
bearing the oppressive weight of four centuries of injustice,
Oh God, of all people . . .**

**We acknowledge and confess today
our nation's original, founding sin,
how we took the stones of justice
and the sand of equity**

and bound them together with the mucilage of racism,
setting a foundation upon which our nation now precariously rests.

We acknowledge and confess
that some of our grandest of ideals were put into place
by those unable to perceive their own utter hypocrisies.
Equality was not, in fact, self-evident to them
and we continue to bear the weight of what they could not see.

We acknowledge and confess today
our grief, our anger, our confusion, our mistrust, our anxiety,
our shame, our hopes, our devotion, our aspirations, our faith,
. . . our dreams.

Our dreams.

Remembering that when the waters are troubled,
the healing can happen, we pray:
may we not call for calm or counsel false complicity
at the very time
when the foundations need to shake,
when what has been needs to be dismantled,
when we now know more clearly than ever before
that we are not, we are not who we have claimed to be.

Remove us from false reliance upon that
which cannot support a dream that is called . . . All.
Restrain us from futile return to a false peace
that would only undergird a stifling status quo.
Renew us, renew us, renew us for the long journey ahead,
a risky, unnerving adventure out into an unknown,
toward a dream seen now but faintly:
that one day, one day our nation will rise up
and live out the true meaning of our creed:
that all, that All are created equal.

If the old foundations cannot sustain us, then we pray:
endow us with faith.

Endow us with faith upon which now to rely,
the spiritual insight that would enable us to perceive
evidence of things hoped for
and the assurance of things not seen.

May we walk this challenging way with compassion.
May we no longer ignore or avoid the ways
in which we ourselves are impediments.

May we find the soul force that would sustain us
and the soul force that would propel us forward
toward that new day when justice will, at long last,
roll down like waters
and righteousness slake our thirst
with living waters from a mighty stream.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC: *WORD OF GOD SPEAK* - MercyMe

Darin Jellison

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unison: Gracious God, may our offerings of money, talents, time, energy and love be used to translate our faith into programs and ministries that is hospitable to all. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: *HOW BEAUTIFUL OUR SPACIOUS SKIES*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *TRUMPET MARCH IN C* - J. Clarke

*Special thanks to Darin Jellison and the Harmonium Choir
for special music, to Ron Demkee for reading the scriptures,
and to Noah Jellison for editing the service.*

Blessings to all!