

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
JULY 19, 2020**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *DEAL THOU WITH ME IN MERCY, LORD* - Walther

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Searching God, you who are always seeking us, following behind us when we flee, catch our hearts today and draw us into your waiting presence where we can learn how to wait as you wait: eagerly, hopefully, joyfully, for our holiness to grow. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: *HERE, O MY LORD, I SEE YOU FACE TO FACE*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: God invites us to gather.

Unison: **We worship the Holy One who is present in all.**

Pastor: God invites us to come as we are for the sake of who we may yet be.

Unison: **We worship the Holy One who calls us to new ways of being and doing.**

Pastor: God invites us to journey in awe and in trust.

Unison: **We worship the Holy One in our midst who blesses and commissions us for the good of all.**

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Pastor: In our good times and in our bad times, in our ups and in our downs:

Unison: **We confess you are with us, God.**

Pastor: You are in our moments of transformation, inviting us to new life.
When we are running away, when we are searching for a home:

People: **We confess you are with us, God.**

Pastor: You guide us to new possibilities. When we are feeling proud and self-satisfied, when we are wracked with guilt or shame:

Unison: **We confess you are with us, God.**

Pastor: You steady us on new ways. When we are wrestling, when we are striving:

Unison: **We confess you are with us, God.**

Pastor: You accompany us into new faithfulness to your presence and call.

Unison: **Amen, and Amen!**

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON: *Scott & Louise Christman, Lay Readers*

Old Testament: Genesis 28:10 – 19a

New Testament: Matthew 13:24 – 30, 36 – 43

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC: *BECAUSE HE LIVES* - *The Gather Trio* *Darin Jellison*

SERMON: *Have We Reached the Top?*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Pastor: We believe in God, always and everywhere, present and active from before time's beginning and long past our conceptions of time's ending. We believe in God, always and everywhere, who is and does beyond our imaginings. We believe in God, always and everywhere, with women and men framing stories to explain our connectedness with the Mystery. We believe in God, always and everywhere, in Jesus of Nazareth, revealing holy relationship and urging practiced love.

Unison: We believe in God, always and everywhere, in our times, in our lives, prompting gracious welcome and responsible participation in God's unfolding reign.

We believe in God, always and everywhere.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: For all who struggle with grief or fear, anger or pain, hear our prayers...
(silence for personal petitions)

Pastor: For all who face a crossroads, a time of choosing, hear our prayers...
(silence for personal petitions)

Pastor: For all who find it hard to come into the presence of God, or who have found the church non-receptive and ungracious, hear our prayers...
(silence for personal petitions)

Pastor: For all on journeys home, for all setting out on new ways, for all who feel trapped and unable to move, hear our prayers...

Pause for 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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unison: Gracious and holy God, accept what we offer today: our checks and cash, our faltering steps, our brokenness, our leftovers, our hope, our risking, our lives. Bless and transform all that we offer and all that we hold back, that new life may be ours, to celebrate and share in Jesus' name. Amen

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Pastor: He was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, He was always the guest. At the meal tables of the wealthy where He helped the case of the poor, He was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, He was always the guest. But here, at this table, He is the host. Those who wish to serve Him must first be served by Him, those who want to follow Him must first be fed by Him, and those who would wash His feet must first let Him make them clean. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new. So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be His guests at His table.

SPECIAL MUSIC: *BREAK THE BREAD*

House of Peace

THE STORY

Pastor: What we do here, we do in imitation of what Christ first did. To His followers in every age, Jesus gave an example and command rooted in the experience He shared with His disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

On the night on which He was betrayed, and as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it. He gave it to the disciples saying, "This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me." Later, after they had eaten, He took a cup and said, "This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me."

So now we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and this cup, the produce of the earth and fruit of human labor. In these, Jesus has promised to be present; through these, Christ can make us whole.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. The Lord be with you.

Unison: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Unison: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Unison: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, for you made us, and before us, you made the world we inhabit. All that is spectacular, all that is plain have their origin in you; all that is lovely, all who are loving, point to you as their fulfillment. And grateful as we are for the world we know and the universe beyond our kin, we particularly praise you, whom eternity cannot contain, for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus. For His life which informs our living, for His compassion which changes our hearts, for His clear speaking which contradicts our harmless generalities, for His disturbing presence, His innocent suffering, His fearless dying, His rising to life breathing forgiveness, we praise you and worship you. Here too our gratitude rises for the promise of the Holy Spirit, who even yet, even now, confronts us with your claims and attracts us to your goodness.

Pastor: Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.

Unison: In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

Pastor: Through the broken bread, we participate in the body of Christ.
Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life Christ gives.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Pastor: The body of Christ, broken for us all.

SPECIAL MUSIC: *HERE IS BREAD*

Mark Bradford

Partake of Your Bread as You Listen to The Music

Pastor: The cup of the covenant poured out for you.

SPECIAL MUSIC: *REMEMBRANCE*

Matt Redman

Partake of Your Cup as You Listen to The Music

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Unison: In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed

people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, and encourage many through us. So, Lord may we live to your glory. Amen.

COMMISSIONING

Pastor: You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. May your light so shine before all people, that they may see your good works and give glory to God who is in heaven.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: *WE ARE NOT OUR OWN*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *RECESSIONAL IN B FLAT* - Handel

*Special thanks to **Darin Jellison, House of Peace, Mark Bradford, and Matt Redman** for special music, to **Scott and Louise Christman** for reading scriptures, and to **Autumn Kandt** for editing the service.*

Blessings to all!