

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 30, 2020**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: O LAMM GOTTES UNSCHULDIG - Pachelbel

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Igniting Presence, your spark is here; your flame burns amidst us. We recognize that we are standing on Holy Ground – for all Creation is holy, and all who abide in it are called to be awake in awareness and care. Help us to notice the flame of your passion for healing and wholeness everywhere. Help us to turn our heads and be attentive to the lights of your constant compassion around us and among us. Catch our eyes by the flickering of your grace that is in the goodness and mercy of communion and love. And help us always to remember that you are with us. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: Look, over there, the spark of God's presence calls to us.

Unison: **We must be standing on holy ground!**

Pastor: Look, all around, the light of God's love is in each person present.

Unison: **We must be standing on holy ground!**

People: Look, deep within, the light of God's creativity and compassion are part of our being.

Unison: **We must be standing on holy ground!**

Pastor: God is calling for our curiosity and our attention. In this time of worship let us recognize the flame of God's presence everywhere.

Unison: **And let us celebrate that we are standing on Holy Ground!**

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Pastor: God, you call us to be the agents of intervention and change in a broken world.

Unison: **But who are we, that you should do such a thing?**

Pastor: God, you ask us to speak up, to show up, and to lead.

Unison: **But who are we, that you should do such a thing?**

Pastor: God, you nudge us forward into the arenas of participation rather than passivity.

Unison: **But who are we, that you should do such a thing? We are your children, Loving God, yet we confess we are reluctant to hear your**

call. We confess, Holy Presence, that we turn away and resist your urging displays, even when the signs are all around us. We are fearful and would rather imagine ourselves to be powerless than enter the frays of conflict and oppression that exist all around us.

Pastor: The great “I AM” is calling, showing us that WE ARE as well.

Unison: We do not know how TO BE all we are called TO BE. Forgive us and show us the way, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Donna Schoenberger, lay reader

Old Testament: Exodus 3:1 – 15

New Testament: Matthew 16:21 – 28

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON: *Holy Curiosity*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD’S WILL AND WORK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FROM AUSTRALIA:

**We believe in the debonaire God
who clothes the wild flowers
dressing them so superbly
that they outdo Solomon in all his glory;
who is the true Friend
of all creatures great and small
who feeds magpies and laughing kookaburras,
and even doleful ravens and drongos.**

**We believe in the God of Christ Jesus
the Source of abundance,
full of grace and truth.**

**We believe in the extravagant God
who turns the other cheek,
goes the second mile,
turns water into the best wine,
brings healing with his every touch,
and who welcomes a woman’s love
as she fills the house with unforgettable fragrance.**

**We believe in the faith-full God of Jesus Christ,
who sweated blood in an Olive Grove,
and kept the faith to the very end.**

**We believe in the redeeming God
who spared no cost,**

**forgave even his brutal crucifiers,
had time for a dying thief at his side,
and who on the third day
did a thing so prodigious
that even his friends were dismayed with joy.**

**We believe in the God of Jesus Christ,
the Source of abundance
wherever we turn
and no matter what we do.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Holy Word, you have caught our attention today. We have noticed your flickering presence in our midst, and we recognize that we abide on Holy Ground.

(Pause for a moment of silence.)

Pastor: We bring our compassionate curiosity to you, Loving Parent. We bring our often reluctant, but honestly caring hearts and ask, “Who are we that you should call us?”

(silence)

Pastor: Open our eyes to the way’s life is being consumed and requires protection. Encourage us in the promise of new life beyond the pain.

(silence)

Pastor: We lift our hearts to all who suffer under the oppression of societal systems.

(silence).

Pastor: We lift our prayers for all who struggle in physical pain and anguish.

(silence)

Pastor: We lift our voices in solidarity with all who are imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit.

(silence)

Pastor: And we strive to lift our beings in willingness to say “yes” to your invitation to help.

(silence)

Pastor: May the Holy Ground on which we stand today empower our steps toward the journey of healing in which we have been placed as your people. May the energy of your Earth reach into our beings and give us the strength to say “yes” again and again. May the burning bushes all around us continue to call out for attention and transformation, until the new life they reflect is fulfilled. Bless us for this journey, we pray. Help us always to embrace the curiosity.

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: *WARM WHITE LIGHT* - Darin Jellison

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unison: Over here, Gracious Giver! Here we are – your burning bush. With hearts aflame with good intention, we give from our abundance and celebrate the ways your spirit is alive in our souls. Bless this offering toward healing and new life. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: *ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *PROCESSIONAL C MAJOR (FROM WATER MUSIC)* -Handel

*Special thanks to **Darin Jellison** for special music, to **Donna Schoenberger** for reading the scriptures, and to **Noah Jellison** for editing the service.*

Blessings to all!