

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 16, 2020**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *GLORY TO GOD ON HIGH* - Walther

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

May what comes out of our lives be filled with your grace. As we take in the beauty of music, the wisdom of words, the nourishment of silence, and the strength of fellowship, may the thoughts and actions that emerge from our lives be inspired by your creativity and grounded in your truth. Help us to recognize ourselves as part of your creation, and to affirm that you do not hold us away in anger and judgment but draw us near in forgiveness and joy. As we approach you in worship today, recognize us as your beloved family. Help us to feel the embrace of your rejoicing heart upon our return to you today. And assure us of your unending forgiveness and love, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: *THERE IS A NAME I LOVE TO HEAR*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: There is dew on the ground: God's blessing of life ever- more.

Unison: **There is a song in the air: God's presence in joyful melody.**

Pastor: Look! Behold how good and pleasant it is when God's people are together!

Unison: **It is like precious oil touching our skin – reminding us that we are God's own.**

Pastor: Look! Behold how good and pleasant it is when we are together in worship!

Unison: **It is more precious than any gold – more perfect than any achievement.**

Pastor: Come, people of God. Let us worship in thanksgiving and praise.

Unison: **And let us feel the anointing of God like the oil of forgiveness and the balm of healing. Come, let us worship.**

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Eternal Forgiveness, we have held so tightly to our resentments and bitterness that we are not even aware of the ways they have imprisoned our own spirits. We are a people often bound by our self-righteousness. We are a people many times restricted by our standards of right and wrong. We are a people who

have not yet learned how to love with truly generous hearts. And thus, we are limited and restrained; held back and misguided; confined and constrained. Help us to loosen these bonds. Show us the ways of forgiveness that lead us to free others from our anger, and to free ourselves in renewed wholeness. Remind us again of the deep communion within which you created us, and of our relatedness as your children. Lead us to reconnect with each other in joyful abandonment of our hold on brokenness and failures. Show us the ways of subversive forgiveness, which allows us new life and creates the path for healing. Forgive us, we pray, and show us how to forgive. Amen.

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Karen Long, lay reader

Old Testament: Genesis 45:1 – 15

New Testament: Matthew 15:10 – 28

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: *Let's Try a Different Approach*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Pastor: We are a cloth of diverse colors made from many gifts and graces.

Unison: **We are the people flowing forth from Creator God, surprising ourselves with the things which can be done.**

Pastor: We are raw material for rewarding relationships as our lives interweave,

Unison: **contributing one to the other, holding each other firm when one is weak or breaking.**

Pastor: We are each worthy of being respected and cared for,

Unison: **essential to the pattern, skilled in our appointed tasks, sources of laughter and sharers of tears.**

Pastor: We commit ourselves to work together,

Unison: **that one day, this world may be a place where all people live in justice, freedom and peace.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Unison: **Gracious God, unbind us. Show us how to be released from all that keeps us tethered to our anger and resentments. Help us to participate in the grace you give us so freely every day. When our relationships are broken, help us to choose unity over our need to be right. When our work is more burden than a joy, help us to embrace it as an opportunity to learn. When we feel abandoned and alone, show us the path to experiencing your profound and perpetual presence with us always. When our bodies are frail and sources of pain, help us to listen deeply to them, and tend carefully**

to them, with thanksgiving for the miracles that they are. When our spirits are diminished, help us to reach out to others for renewal and support. When our world seems too fractured and broken, help us to seek to be part of the healing it needs. When we are overwhelmed by the challenges of the day, help us to slow down, breathe deeply, and take your loving hand. Guide us, we pray. Heal us, we pray. Anoint us, we pray. Help us return to the possibility of rejoicing in how good and pleasant it is to be your people.

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: *I CAN ONLY IMAGINE* - MercyMe *Darin Jellison, guitar*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unison: **As we bring forward our gifts, we also bring forward our intentions to let go of all that imprisons us. Receive this offering as hope for the future of your church and world. Receive us as your children, reunited and made new. Amen.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: *REJOICE, GIVE THANKS AND SING*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *WHEN IN THE HOUR OF UTMOST NEED* - J. C. Bach

Special thanks to Karen Long for reading this morning's scriptures, Darin Jellison for providing us with special music, and to Noah Jellison for editing the service. Blessings to all!