

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
BIBLE SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *JESUS, WILL PONDER NOW* - J. G. Walther

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O God, turn our faces, our voices, and our lives toward you, so we might know goodness, receive what we most need, and share the gifts of life with others.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: *GLORIOUS THINGS OF YOU ARE SPOKEN*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: God breathed life into human beings made in God's image.

Unison: We remember. So let's give God the glory!

Pastor: God called to a runaway shepherd, Moses, to lead God's people out of slavery.

Unison: We remember. So let's give God the glory!

Pastor: God, like a pillar of clouds, led the people through the sea to freedom.

Unison: We remember. So let's give God the glory!

Pastor: Water flowed like a river from a rock in the wilderness.

Unison: We remember. So let's give God the glory!

Pastor: God gives us a way when there seems no way.

Unison: We remember. So we worship today.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Pastor: God, when we get afraid of what lies ahead, we want to go back to the old ways instead of seeking your new way with us.

(Silence.)

Forgive us and open us to you.

Unison: Holy Giver, our hands are open to receive your gifts.

Pastor: When we don't see the signs of hope we expect, we complain, we turn to other things, and we blame each other.

(Silence.)

Forgive us and open us to you.

Unison: Holy Giver, our hands are open to receive your gifts.

Pastor: When we do have enough, we want even more and, by wanting more, often others have less than enough.

(Silence.)

Forgive us and open us to you.

Unison: Holy Giver, our hands are open to receive your gifts.

Pastor: When we work so hard to get something, we forget your goodness and think our lives are what we've done, have, or achieved.

(Silence.)

Forgive us and open us to you.

Unison: Holy Giver, our hands are open to receive your gifts.

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Exodus 16:9 – 15

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC: *RISE UP* - Andra Day, Cassandra Batie, and Jenn Decilveo

Performed by Singers from: The Boston Children's Choir, Denver Children's Choir, Cincinnati Boys Choir, Gondwana Choirs, Children's Choir of Washington

SERMON: "*What is This?*"

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Unison: I believe in God,

the giver of grain and bread,

and in Jesus Christ,

the bread of life broken for us,

and in the Holy Spirit,

God's nourishing power in every grain and loaf.

I believe that Christ is to be leaven in us,

so that we may offer the bread of life

to the hungers of every human heart.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Here we are Lord,

on our knees,

Crying mercy;

Mercy for our souls,

Mercy for one another,

Mercy for our churches,

Mercy for our nation,

Mercy for our world.

Here we are again

Standing in your presence

in awe of you your holiness,

your otherness,
your mystery,
and your incarnation.

We stand bringing the needs of our friends, family, church,
community, nation and world to lay at your feet.

We cry out in pain for the struggles of the world.

We cry out for those who are in pain, sick, in the hospital, rehab,
homebound, nursing homes and those on their death bed.

We cry out for the divisions and conflict that seems to be in our lives,
our families, our churches, our communities, our nation and our world.

We cry out for those who live in poverty, those who are starving,
those who are in prisons, and those who live under oppression.

Lord, pour out your mercy
like healing, comforting rain.

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: *WHAT FAITH CAN DO* - Kutless

Darin Jellison

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unison: We long for the time when the meek shall inherit the earth and all who hunger and thirst after justice shall be satisfied, and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil, now is always the time when more good can be done and we can make a difference. May it be so, through the offering of these gifts and the offering of our lives. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: *BE NOT DISMAYED*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *MARCHE TRIUMPHANT* - F. Peeters

*Special thanks to **Darin Jellison** and the **New York City Virtual Choir and Orchestra** for the offering and gift of music and song,
to Lilly Maginn for reading this morning's scripture lesson,
and to **Justin and Avery Koser** for
editing the service.
Blessings to all!*