

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
CHILDREN'S SABBATH
OCTOBER 11, 2020**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: REFLECTION ON MATTHEW 11:28 – Fenton Groden

A REFLECTIVE TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

Goodness does not consist in turning your face towards East or West. The truly good are those who believe in God and the Last Day, in the angels, the Scripture, and the prophets; who give away some of their wealth, however much they cherish it, to their relatives, to orphans, the needy, travelers and beggars, and to liberate those in bondage; those who keep up the prayer and pay the prescribed alms; who keep pledges whenever they make them; who are steadfast in misfortune, adversity, and times of danger. These are the ones who are true, and it is they who are aware of God.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: LITTLE CHILDREN, WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: We gather today

Unison: from many places, different traditions, and diverse experiences.

Pastor: Our hearts are united

Unison: by concern for children, especially children without those things that all children need, care about the parents who work hard and struggle to make ends meet, and belief that our religious traditions call us to live with love and compassion.

Pastor: Our voices are united

Unison: by determination to demand an end to child and family poverty, courage to share our own stories of struggle and injustice, and commitment to proclaim our religious traditions' call for justice and plenty for all.

Pastor: We come to celebrate the Children's Sabbath.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Pastor: O God, forgive and transform our rich nation

Unison: where small babies die of cold quite legally.

Pastor: O God, forgive and transform our rich nation

Unison: where small children suffer from hunger quite legally.

Pastor: O God, forgive and transform our rich nation

Unison: where toddlers and school children die from guns sold quite legally.

Pastor: O God, forgive and transform our rich nation

Unison: that lets children be the poorest group of citizens quite legally.

Pastor: O God, forgive and transform our rich nation

Unison: that lets the rich continue to get more at the expense of the poor quite legally.

Pastor: O God, forgive and transform our rich nation

Unison: which thinks security rests in missiles and in bombs rather than in mothers and in babies.

Pastor: O God, forgive and transform our rich nation

Unison: for not giving You sufficient thanks by giving to others their daily bread.

Pastor: O God, help us never to confuse what is quite legal with what is just and right in Your sight.

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Old Testament: Exodus 2:1 – 10

New Testament: Mark 10:13 – 16

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: *Precious in God's Sight*

SPECIAL MUSIC: *THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD* - Maltbie Davenport Babcock
- performed by Connor Licairac, harp

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Pastor: If we love America and love our children, you and I must build a powerful movement to end child poverty and transform the political and economic priorities in a nation that has ignored the cries of millions of poor children to stack the decks in favor of a few exceedingly rich and powerful billionaires and millionaires.

Unison: **We will build that movement!**

Pastor: We must envision and realize an America where every child has enough—enough time, attention and stability from parents and other caring adults; and enough quality education, healthy food, stable shelter, accessible health care and other basics we who are more privileged want for our own children. God did not make two classes of children and we do so at our peril.

Unison: **We will achieve that vision so every child has enough!**

Pastor: Let us keep our eyes on what children need to grow up healthy and to be contributing human beings. We must never allow ourselves to be

sidetracked by shifting political winds or deterred by the endless stream of excuses attempting to justify indifference to and neglect of children. The great undertaking of saving our children will save America's soul and future in a world desperately in need of moral, political and economic leadership.

Unison: We will stay focused on what children need and demand our leaders do too!

Pastor: Let's commit together to making this Children's Sabbath a galvanizing weekend that amplifies our united moral voices calling for an investment in children and end to child poverty. Let it unite our hearts in making the difference that we can make. And may its inspiration, information, and motivation sustain us in action throughout the year to do all we can.

Unison: We will keep our hearts and voices united to end child poverty!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: On this weekend celebrated as Children's Sabbath in congregations across the land, trusting that God hears both the prayers we offer in the silence of our hearts and those we voice together, let us pray for the Church and for the world. Jesus reminded us that God will swiftly grant justice to those who cry to God, so let us respond to the words, "As we pray and work for justice," with "God, hear our cry and help us not lose heart."

Grant, O God, that all who gather in Christ's name will throw wide our doors and our hearts and lift our hands and voices to proclaim your promise of love and will for justice, especially for those who are young, poor, vulnerable, and oppressed.

Silence

As we pray and work for justice,

Unison: God, hear our cry and help us not lose heart.

Pastor: Guide our nation and its leaders, that they will champion justice for those who need it most and keep their promises to children and families.

Silence

As we pray and work for justice,

Unison: God, hear our cry and help us not lose heart.

Pastor: Bless the families of our world, especially the billion who lack the income, clean water, health care, or education needed to live into the fullness of life.

Silence

As we pray and work for justice,

Unison: God, hear our cry and help us not lose heart.

Pastor: Strengthen us to move forward with hope to end child poverty and create a nation and world of justice so that every child may live into the fullness of life.

Silence

As we pray and work for justice,

Unison: God, hear our cry and help us not lose heart.

Pastor: Comfort all who suffer, especially those who are hungry, lack health care, or struggle without a job or enough income to meet their needs.

Silence

As we pray and work for justice,

Unison: God, hear our cry and help us not lose heart.

Pastor: Gather to yourself all who have died, especially those who died from poverty and other causes we could have prevented.

Silence

As we pray and work for justice,

Unison: God, hear our cry and help us not lose heart.

Pastor: Almighty God, hear these the prayers of your children and grant them for the sake of your beloved child Jesus Christ our Lord.

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'M HAPPY YOU FOUND ME* –

Composed and performed by Brian Jones

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unison: O Great Spirit of our Ancestors, we raise the pipe to you, to your messengers the four winds, and to Mother Earth who provides for your children. Give us the wisdom to teach our children to love, to respect, to be kind to each other so that they may grow with peace in mind. Let us learn to share all the good things that you provide for us on this Earth.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: *NOW THE DAY IS OVER*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *CHORALE IN F MAJOR* – *Flor Peeters*

*Special thanks to **Connor Licairac** and **Brian Jones** for offering their gifts of music and song, and to **Wes, Justin, and Avery Koser** for editing today's service.*

Blessings to all!