

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 25, 2020**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: LORD JESUS CHRIST, BE PRESENT NOW (3 SETTINGS)

- J. G Walther

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

We have visions, Great Creator. We hold images and dreams in our spirits that we long to see manifest, but for now, sustain us for the journey. Be known to us as we worship, and help us to cast our visions into the realm of possibility. Be known to us and guide us ever closer to the fulfillment of all healing and wholeness in this world. Be known to us, and help us to see that every step is balm itself – every effort is part of your glory – every intention to love and share compassion is your realm on Earth embodied. Be known to us as we worship, and help us to see what is true now, as well as to hold the vision for what is possible in your grace. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: COME, GATHER IN THIS SPECIAL PLACE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: We are people on a journey – a journey of faith and hope in God's love.

People: **Come, let us continue on this journey, keeping our sights on the promises of God's grace.**

Pastor: The invitation has been sent to each of us – no matter who we are or where we are on life's journey – we are all invited to join in following.

People: **We are invited to follow the Christ wherever we are led; to follow into service, into contemplation, into worship, and into communion with God, God's people, and God's created world. Come, let us journey on.**

Pastor: Come, people of God, let us recognize ourselves as one family of God, as we journey together toward peace and justice.

People: **God unites us as one people, and journeys with us all the way. Let us worship.**

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Just a little further... Just a little more... Just a little longer... Just a little closer. As we journey in faith, we have often made the mistake of believing that the destination is the goal, rather than notice that the journey itself holds blessings often unseen and unknown. We join with Moses in holding visions of

what is possible. Yet, we confess, we have not always been able to join Moses in accepting that we may not live in the fulfillment of our dreams. This has meant we have missed some of the beauty, grace, wonder, and peace that have been ours along the way. Forgive us, and help us to see the treasure that is in our midst as we journey together toward your realm on earth. Amen.

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Jerry Trexler, lay reader

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 34:1 – 12

New Testament: Matthew 22:34 – 46

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC: *FIX YOU* – Coldplay

Darin Jellison

SERMON: *Just a Glimpse*

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Pastor: There is one hope, one calling, to which we are called.

Unison: The hope in our lives is Jesus.

Pastor: There is one hope, one calling, to which we are called.

Unison: The call we must answer is God's.

Pastor: There is one faith, one hope, one Lord of us all.

Unison: The Lord of our lives is Jesus.

Pastor: There is one baptism, one Father, one Mother of all.

Unison: The creator who calls us is God.

Pastor: We are one body, one family, one church,

Unison: woven by the Spirit with bonds of peace.

Pastor: With Christ's children throughout all of this earth,

Unison: we are one body in unity and love.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Loving God, thank you that you are with us always.

We have been on many journeys of life and faith in our lives – journeys of family and career, of friendship and imagination, of personal fulfillment and community building. And we live, always, with the hope of someday arriving into the light of fulfillment.

But we thank you, today, that as people of faith, our commitment is to the journey itself.

We recognize that in many ways, our dreams will never be fully actualized.

And yet, we know that to let go of the possibilities of peace on Earth with true justice and equity is to let go of God's heartbeat in our lives.

We thank you for the prophets of our world who have held up the visions and shown us the potential – who have led us to the mountaintop from which we can all see the glory of your grace made known on Earth. Guide us as we continue to strive to get closer to its fruition.

On this journey with a hurting planet, guide our steps and help us to be healers.

On this journey for racial justice, guide our steps to recognize one another as siblings and your family.

On this journey for economic equality, guide our steps toward the common good and enough for all.

On this journey with immigrants and sojourners everywhere, guide our steps to notice that even we are sojourners, and our welcome is your welcome.

On this journey to be your people on Earth, guide our steps and teach us to love more fully, until we can all affirm that the journey itself is our home, and you are with us all the way.

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: *THE GROUND, FROM SUNRISE MASS* - *Ola Gjeilo*

North Allegheny Honors Chamber Choir

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unison: We dedicate the journey to you today. In thanksgiving for all the beauty and potential we can see from this vantage point as your people, we give our worship and our resources. Bless and transform them, we pray, into the fulfillment of steps along "the way." We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: LORD, LOOK DOWN FROM HEAVEN, BEHOLD

- J. Pachelbel

*Special thanks to **Jerry Trexler** for reading scriptures, to **Darin Jellison** and the **North Allegheny Honors Chamber Choir** for their offerings and gifts of music and song, and to **Justin, Avery, and Wes Koser** for editing the service. Blessings to all!*