

We Are the Church: August 9, 2020

Week Eleven: Witness and Inclusive Community



PRELUDE: Music provided by Gloria Gilbertson

OPENING HYMN: Shelter Me Sung by Ashley Johnson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Amen.

L: Listen deeply to these words as we confess our sins, trusting in the mercy of God. Reconciling God, we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

L: Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✝ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Let us pray: O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The First Reading: Acts 12-14

Witnessing to the World Can be Dangerous Business

L: The first reading includes selected stories from Acts chapters 12 through 14.

James Martyred and Peter Persecuted in Jerusalem: Acts 12:1-5

¹ King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. ² He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. ³ After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. ⁵ While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

Paul and Barnabas Persecuted in Antioch: Acts 13:45-46, 50

⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy; and blaspheming, they contradicted what was spoken by Paul. ⁴⁶ Then both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly... ⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, and stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their region.

Paul and Barnabas Persecuted in Iconium: Acts 14:1-2

¹ The same thing occurred in Iconium, where Paul and Barnabas went into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks became believers. ² But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.

Paul and Barnabas Persecuted in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra: Acts 14:19-20

¹⁹ (While in Lystra) the Jews came there from Antioch and Iconium and won over the crowds. Then they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. ²⁰ But when the disciples surrounded him, he got up and went into the city.

The Second Reading: Acts 15:5-15, 22

Are There Rules People Have to Follow to Receive God's Grace?

L: The second reading is from Acts, the 15th chapter.

⁵ Some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, “It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.”

⁶ The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. ⁷ After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. ⁸ And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; ⁹ and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. ¹⁰ Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹ On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.” (James replied), “My brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. ¹⁵ This agrees with the words of the prophets. ²² Then the apostles and the elders, with the consent of the whole church, decided to send...Barnabas, Paul, Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth.

The Third Reading: Galatians 3:26-29

There is No Distinction in Christ

L: The third reading is from Galatians, the 3rd Chapter.

²⁶ For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

SERMON: Pastor Dave Efflandt

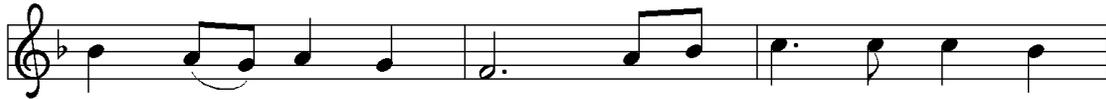
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
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GRADUATION MILESTONE

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: On this morning, let us pray to God for the church, the earth, and all in need, that the whole world may know the resurrection that God promises to give. Amen.

A brief silence. The Leader continues.

We pray for the church throughout the world. *A brief silence.*

For the spirit of resurrection within all believers. *A brief silence.*

For the newly baptized. *A brief silence.*

For the health of plants and animals. *A brief silence.*

For all who care for the earth. *A brief silence.*

For peace throughout the world. *A brief silence.*

For an increase of justice in every land. *A brief silence.*

For those in need, those close to home, those far away. *A brief silence.*

For those who are hungry. *A brief silence.*

For the sick and the dying. *A brief silence.*

For our neighborhood. *A brief silence.*

For this assembly of worshipers. **(Any Special Petitions)** *A brief silence.*

For the desires of our hearts. *A brief silence.*

We give thanks for the lives of all the faithful who have died and who now enjoy the full presence of God. We pray that at the end we may join them in the resurrection.

A brief silence.

On this morning, O God, receive our prayers and praises, and give us your Spirit, that our lives may be signs of the new life you give through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship: Sunday at 9AM on the lawn; 10AM Zoom. Online available afternoon
→ Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays
Wednesday at 6:30 PM online via Zoom
→ Communion: August 19

Bible Studies

Thursdays at 9:30 AM via Zoom: Women of Faith

Saturdays at 10 AM via Google Meets: "Lamentations"

BLESSING

L: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present,
nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all
creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love. Amen.

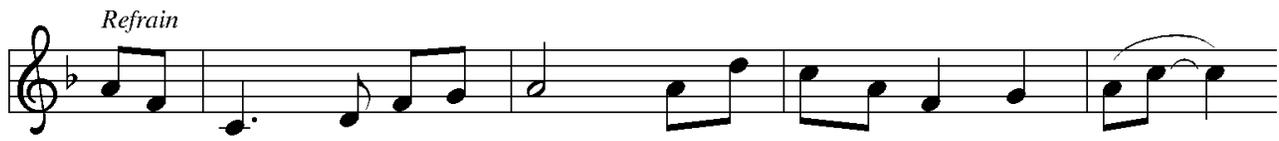
DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you. Thanks be to God.

SENDING SONG

I Received the Living God

Refrain



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



- 1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
- 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
- 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
- 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



Refrain

you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

Text: Anonymous
Music: LIVING GOD, Anonymous

Musicians: Ashley Johnson and Gloria Gilbertson