



Time After Pentecost

Sunday, June 20, 2021

*An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in Spirit.*

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — “Just As I Am”

Charlotte Elliott and William Bradbury

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

The Divine Gardener cannot sow seeds of justice and peace
where there is nothing but hearts of dry, hard rocks.

We confess that our hearts may need tilling
and the digging out of the deeply rooted sins
that crowd out seedlings planted with divine compassion.

God of steadfast love,
you change bitter tears of remorseful hearts with raindrops of mercy,
Now let us germinate a new life, growing with integrity!

God of steadfast love,
you change the cold shame of contrite hearts with sunrays of mercy
Now let us sprout a new life, growing with honesty!

God of steadfast love,
you change the stony edges of repentant hearts into landscapes of mercy,
Now let us branch out into new life, growing with generosity!

Divine Gardener, you tend us in steadfast love,
In Christ, this faithful love is planted in our hearts.
Gathered as our family of faith, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us,
we can now produce forgiveness for each other as we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Prayer of the Day

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Job 38:1-11

1The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

2“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

3Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

4“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

5Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

6On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone

7when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

8“Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb?—

9when I made the clouds its garment,
and thick darkness its swaddling band,

10and prescribed bounds for it,
and set bars and doors,

11and said, “Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stopped?”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 — *spoken responsively by verse*

1Give thanks to the Lord, for the | Lord is good,
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever.

2**Let the redeemed of the | Lord proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,**

3gathering them in | from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.

23**Some went down to the | sea in ships,
plying their trade | in deep waters.**

24They beheld the works | of the Lord,
God’s wonderful works | in the deep.

25**Then God spoke, and a stormy | wind arose,
which tossed high the waves | of the sea.**

26They mounted up to the heavens and descended | to the depths;
 their souls melted away | in their peril.
 27They staggered and | reeled like drunkards,
 and all their skill was of | no avail.
 28Then in their trouble they cried | to the Lord,
 and you delivered them from | their distress.
 29You stilled the storm | to a whisper
 and silenced the waves | of the sea.
 30Then were they glad when | it grew calm,
 when you guided them to the harbor | they desired.
 31Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your | steadfast love
 and your wonderful works | for all people.
 32Let them exalt you in the assembly | of the people;
 in the council of the elders, let them sing | hallelujah!

A Reading from the Epistles — 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

1As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2For he says,
 “At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
 and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”
 See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! 3We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s
 way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4but as servants of God we have commended
 ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5beatings,
 imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness,
 holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of
 righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute.
 We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—
 we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making
 many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.
 11We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. 12There is no restriction
 in our affections, but only in yours. 13In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation — hymn no. 794

“Calm to the Waves”

*Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Jesus whispers, “Peace, be still.”
 Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end. In stillness, hear his voice.*

***Gospel — Mark 4:35-41**

The Gospel of Mark, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O God.

35When evening had come, [Jesus said to the disciples,] “Let us go across to the other side.” 36And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. 37A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” 39He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. 40He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” 41And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “Invite Jesus into Your Boat”

Interim Pastor Bill Nelsen

Hymn —

“God, Who Made Each Great Wide Ocean”
Sung to the tune JOYOUS LIGHT

**God, who made each great wide ocean
and who moved o'er restless seas,
By your word you set in motion
mighty storm and gentle breeze.
Wind and Spirit show your glory,
seas and waves your strength declare;
Ships and boats point to the story
of your wondrous love and care.**

**Frightened by a storm they called him,
"Master, will you let us drown?"
In that boat there, Jesus awed them;
he said "Peace!" The winds calmed down.**

**Jesus in a boat was preaching
on a lake called Galilee;
Later, Christ — with hand out-reaching —
called to Peter in the sea.**

**When the storms of life are blowing
and your church knows doubt and fear,
Lord, may we find peace in knowing
you command a safe ship here.
May we hoist the sails, relying
on your Spirit, steady, true.
See! This ship is almost flying!
May we place our trust in you.**

***Affirmation of Faith — 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 power of 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**

Prayers of Intercession

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

Holy God, you gather your people from east and west, north and south. We pray for the mission of the church throughout the world, that your steadfast love may be made known to all peoples. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You laid the foundations of the earth and the waters are the womb of creation. The morning stars sing your name and all creation shouts for joy. We pray for your blessed creation, that it may continue to flourish and magnify your glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You keep watch over all nations. We pray for countries experiencing violence, hunger, and unrest. Guide worldwide and local community organizations in their efforts to establish safety and justice. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are close to the brokenhearted and near to those in distress. We pray for those who are experiencing oppression. Liberate us from the systems and chains that bind us. Remove the barriers that separate us from one another. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You dwell with us in this faith community. We pray for our leaders and elders. Grant them knowledge, patience, and kindness, that through their leadership you may be exalted in this assembly. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your love endures in all situations. On this Father's Day, we pray for those who are fathers or wish to be fathers, for those with broken or strained relationships, for those who are missing their fathers, and for fathers who have lost children. Bless and strengthen them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**

Offering *Please support our ministry. You can write a check and mail it to the church or give online: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.*

Recognition for the Ministry of the Call Committee

Sharing the Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

First Communion for Jaxton Hoenke and Henry Menning & Distribution of Communion

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

Blessing

Life-giving God, we remember the fathers who have gone before us.
For their love, sacrifice, struggle, and joy, we thank you.

Ever-present God, we remember the fathers of scripture who are part of our story as we are a part of your story.
For their example, faith, and love, we thank you.

Nurturing God, we remember those who may not be our parents,
but are fathers and role models to us.
For their gift of themselves that they have given, we thank you.

For the families who struggle with fertility,
for the families torn apart by incarceration, war, and personal struggles,
for those who have lost children or do not want children;
**for their tears, for their strength,
for their wisdom, for their lives,
we thank you.**

Loving God, we go out today giving thanks for
the people in our lives who have nurtured us and set an example
of love, patience, kindness, and compassion as Christ did before us.
**For illuminating their path and encouraging
them to let their light shine so that we may follow, we thank you!**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Invite Jesus into your boat. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sending Hymn — no. 763

“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

Acknowledgements

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“Confession and Forgiveness” written by James E. Janecek, in *Seeds of Faith: Service Prayers for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*. Posted on the United Church of Christ’s Worship Ways archive. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c/p/pentecost-ordinary-time-21.html>

Blessing: “Mother’s Day Prayer” by Claire Schoepp, adapted for Father’s Day, last petition added, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2017/04/a-prayer-for-mothers-day.html>

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In Person Assistants

Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen

Director of Music: Cantor Emily Bruflat

Greeter/Reader: Nancy Timm Bread Bakers: Carrie Stelter and Michelle Doose

Ushers: John and Cindy Nadeau Guitar and Voice: Steve Kidder

Announcements

Fourth of July

- First Lutheran will hold virtual worship only on Sunday, July 4.
- Instead of in-person worship, we will be decorating a float and participating in the Fourth of July parade, also held at 10:00 a.m., as an important opportunity to reach out to our community and demonstrate who we are and what we are all about!
- You still have the in-person worship option on Monday, July 5 at 7:00 p.m.
- Contact Pastor Bill, Calleigh Carlson, or Shanon Nowell if you are interested in participating!

COVID Restrictions Loosened and Helpful Information!

The Health Advisory Team met during the week and has an update for our congregation:

- Vaccinated persons no longer have to wear a face mask while attending church.
- We recommend that vaccinated people continue to BRING a face mask so that they can protect other persons who may have significant health issues and/or when they are in close proximity to others who are wearing a mask.
- Asking “Would you like me to put on my mask?” is a gracious and kind gesture that respects the other person if you would like to talk with a person who is currently wearing a mask.
- Persons may wish to wear a mask while entering the church and leaving the church, but once in your pew, you can easily remove your mask and sing without masking.
- Persons with any concerning health issues may continue to wear a mask if they so desire. We welcome mask wearing, and no judgements will be made of anyone wearing a mask for any reason.
- We strongly recommend that persons who have any immune or blood disorder or are currently taking any immunosuppressive medications to continue to wear a mask at all times while in public and indoors.
- Unvaccinated persons should strongly consider getting the vaccine. We are seeing the surge of the “Delta Variant” which is a very aggressive variant that has much more infectivity and strikes younger persons and children just as harshly as older persons.
- Unvaccinated persons are asked to continue wearing a mask at all times while around other persons on church property.

Prayers

- We celebrate today with Jaxton Hoenke and Henry Menning on their day of First Communion!
- We pray for the family of Sheryl Strand whose mother, Mildred Loffredo, recently died.
- We pray for those who have recently undergone surgery: Erika Schuldt, Glen Stryker, Aileen Bipes, and Paul Berkeland (Sharon Malm’s brother).
- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Tom Johnson, Tom Michels, Dick Muesing, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Tom Stenson, Chuck Petry, Paul Aasen, Bob Cady, Marion Peterson, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, and Urusla McRostie, and for all those families continuing to adjust to the loss of loved ones.