

Sunday, September 19, 2021

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

*You are welcome to sing during
worship if you are vaccinated!*



Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — “Aria”

Cèsar Franck, Setting by Charles Callahan
Lauren Russell, viola

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

One: May we remember

All: That God created.

One: May we remember

All: That God liberated.

One: May we remember

All: That God fed.

One: May we remember

All: That God is still creating,

God is still liberating,

And God is still feeding us.

One: Let this be our story.

All: Let this be where we begin.

One: Let us worship holy God.

***Gathering Liturgy** — from *Now the Feast and Celebration*, page 3

“Kyrie” and “Now the Feast”

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God,
We admit to remembering the wrong things.
We remember worldly lessons like,
“Everyone for themselves,”
“An eye for an eye,” and
“All is fair in love and war.”

And yet, we forget to forgive seventy times seven,
To love our neighbors as ourselves,
And to live like the body of Christ.

Why is it so hard to remember the right things?

Release us from our muscle memory and
Re-center us in a new place,
A fresh place,
A space grounded in your love.

Help us to receive your word anew,
And to consider stewardship not with the
world’s rules,
But with your rules.
Help us remember.

With hope we pray, amen.

*Prayer for Illumination

Holy God,
There is something about scripture that stirs us awake.
For when we hear of a deep love that made room for everyone at the table,
We remember that we are hungry.
And when we hear of manna raining down in the desert,
We remember that we are lost.
There is something about scripture that stirs us awake,
And it feels like hunger and it looks like hope.
So stir us awake, oh God.
Remind us that this story starts with love and ends with love.
We are hungry, which is to say, we are listening. **Amen.**

*Prayer of the Day

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Jeremiah 11:18-20

18It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

19But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”
20But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

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

Psalm 54 — *spoken responsively by verse*

1Save me, O God, | by your name;
in your might, de- | fend my cause.
2Hear my | prayer, O God;
give ear to the words | of my mouth.
3For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have | sought my life,
those who have no re- | gard for God.
4Behold, God | is my helper;
it is the Lord who sus- | tains my life.
5Render evil to those who | spy on me;
in your faithful- | ness, destroy them.
6I will offer you a | freewill sacrifice
and praise your name, O Lord, for | it is good.
7For you have rescued me from | every trouble,
and my eye looks down | on my enemies.

A Reading from the Epistles — James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

13Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. 14But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. 15Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. 16For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. 17But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. 18And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

1Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? 2You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. 7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8aDraw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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

***Gospel** — Mark 9:30-37

The Gospel of Mark, the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

30[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;31for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” 32But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

33Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” 34But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. 35He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” 36Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 37“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “How are We to Live Then?”

Pastor Bob Stenson

***Hymn** — no. 659

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

***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

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environmental crises. God of mercy, **hear us as we pray.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. God of mercy, **hear us as we pray.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. God of mercy, **hear us as we pray.**

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. On this Rally Day Sunday, renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. God of mercy, **hear us as we pray.**

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today. Shine your grace on all your saints. God of mercy, **hear us as we pray.**

Receive these and all our prayers, Gracious God. We pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit the prayer that Christ taught us:

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.

Offering

Please leave an offering in the basket outside the sanctuary, mail a check to the office, or give online: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.

Departing to Serve God's World

Resurrection Cemetery Temple Talk & Announcements

*Sending Hymn — no. 798

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

*Blessing

May the God of our faithful worship go with you,
may we look to Christ as our teacher of true stewardship,
and may the Spirit guide us to generously give
what each of us has to offer in this time and place. Amen.

*Benediction Liturgy — from *Now the Feast and Celebration*, page 15 “May God Bless and Keep Us”

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Worship faithfully; give generously. **Thanks be to God!**

*Postlude — “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

Setting by Stan Pethal
Lauren Russell, viola

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Interim Pastor: Bill Nelsen
Supply Pastor: Bob Stenson
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Greeter/Reader: Rebecca Otterness
Ushers: David Kennedy
Musicians: Lauren Russell, GAC

Announcements

- Calleigh needs more sunday school teaching subs and confirmation mentors - email cc.flcstp@gmail.com to volunteer!
- Communion will be served next Sunday, and all are welcome to receive communion. Lay persons will be commissioned to serve communion to shut-ins as well. Please contact the office if you are planning to be commissioned.
- Funeral for Bob Isenberg will be Saturday, September 25 at 11:00 am. Visitation begins at 9:30 am.
- Please join in the fun and pick up your volunteer packet today! There is a paper survey to complete but we ask you to strongly consider filling it out online for accuracy. A link to the survey is on the church homepage.

Prayers

We pray for our teachers, professors, and students as they begin a new school year!

We pray for the families of those who have recently died: Tom Stenson and Bob Isenberg

We pray for the family of Patrica Duenwald whose mother Alice Hagen recently passed away.

We pray for those who have recently undergone surgery: Erika Schuldt, Glen Stryker

We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Gwen Weldon, Tom and Deb Johnson, Tom Michels, Dick Muesing, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Marion Peterson, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Marion Peterson, and Urusla McRostie, and for all those families continuing to adjust to the loss of loved ones.