

Sunday, October 3, 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 — “If They Only Knew”

Henry van Dyke
Steve Kidder & Rachel Ribar

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.

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Genesis 2: 18-24

18The Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” 19So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. 21So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with

flesh. ²²And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.”

²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

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

Psalm 8 Paraphrase — hymn no. 555

“Oh, Sing to God Above”

A Reading from the Epistles — Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

^{2:5}Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
or mortals, that you care for them?

⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honor,

⁸subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

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

***Gospel Acclamation** — from *Now the Feast and Celebration*, page 7

“Gospel Verse”

***Gospel** — Mark 10:2-16

The Gospel of Mark, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

2Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” 3He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” 4They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” 5But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. 6But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ 7‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

10Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. 11He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; 12and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

13People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. 14But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. 15Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” 16And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “The Sweet Swap”

Pastor Mary Gaebler

***Hymn** — no. 641, St. 1-2 & 5

“All Are Welcome”

***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.

Holy One, you have raised up faithful leaders throughout history. Empower those discerning a call to ministry and all seminarians, that they continue to be formed for the sake of the gospel. God of mercy, **hear us as we pray.**

You have established a diverse and beautiful creation. Revive declining species and preserve endangered lands. Cultivate in us a sense of wonder for the world you created. God of mercy, **hear us as we pray.**

You desire for us not to be alone and to live in community with one another. Strengthen relationships between nations and peoples, that we celebrate and support one human family. God of mercy, **hear us as we pray.**

You share in our experiences and struggles. Bless all who live with any mental or physical disability. Inspire creative communities, spaces, and environments that are accessible and hospitable. God of mercy, **hear us as we pray.**

You have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless members who can no longer travel to worship with us and remind us of their continued role in this community of faith. God of mercy, **hear us as we pray.**

You promise eternal life to all your children. Thank you for the people of faith who have gone before us. Strengthen our trust we have in you. 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

Temple Talk, Announcements

Community Outreach Shanon Nowell

***Sending Hymn —**

"We Are One"

We are one; we are one; one in body, one in Spirit
And our hope is the call that is meant for those who hear it.
We are one; we are one; one in faith and one in baptism,
And our hope is the grace that will free us from our sin.

I beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling
With lowliness and meekness
keep yourself from falling.
With patience, forbearing one another in love

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

***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** — “Let’s Go Out”

Larry Olson
Steve Kidder & Rachel Ribar

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Interim Pastor: Bill Nelsen
Supply Pastor: Mary Gaebler
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Greeter/Reader: Shanon Nowell
Usher: Janet Jensen
Music: Steve Kidder, Rachel Ribar

Announcements

- Hydrangeas would be helpful to use at the Altar this fall. If you would like to donate some, bring them to the church and leave them in the main entry way by October 18th. When cutting the hydrangeas leave the stems as long as possible. Call the church office if you need someone to pick them up at your home.
- If you have questions about volunteering/the survey please contact the office.
- Donations of used Smartphones are still needed to record services. Help us to continue to improve the quality of recorded worship services for those who cannot attend in person.

Prayers

We pray for our teachers, professors, and students as they continue to adjust to new learning challenges.

We pray for those impacted by Covid-19, including Dick and Joann Muesing.

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

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