



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

Some tips for our time together:

1. Please mute your Zoom feed. There will be moments for you to share as you feel led at which point you can unmute.
2. As is typical, the singing and bold print are for communal response. Caroline and Dave will be unmuted and be the “out-loud” voice of the people. We invite you to sing and say the words aloud along with them where you are while muted.
3. Follow along in the bulletin on a separate device (e.g. phone)
4. We aren’t sure, but it might make sense to switch back and forth between the ‘gallery’ and ‘active speaker’ modes. Perhaps utilizing active speaker mode for the reading of scripture, homily/sharing, and prayers of the people, while using gallery for the rest.
5. Create sacred space. Find symbols of the faith—cross, candles, Bible, bowl of water, icons—to put on a table near you during this time.
6. Asterisks in the bulletin indicate where the congregation is invited to stand.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP* (adapted from Psalm 30:1-3, 11-12)

We will exalt you, O LORD,
because you have lifted us up,
and have not let our enemies triumph over us.

**O Lord our God, we cried out to you,
and you restored us to health.**

You brought us up, O Lord, from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

You have turned our wailing into dancing;
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

Therefore our hearts sing to you without ceasing;

O Lord, we will give you thanks forever.

SONG* - Uyai Mose

Uyai mose,
tinamate Mwari,
Uyai mose,
tinamate Mwari,
Uyai mose,
tinamate Mwari,
Uyai mose zvino.

Come all you people,
come and praise your Maker,
Come all you people,
come and praise your Maker,
Come all you people,
come and praise your Maker,
Come now and worship the Lord.

SONG* - Alpha and Omega

You are Alpha and Omega;
We worship you, our Lord.
You are worthy to be praised.

Eres Alfa y Omega;
te adoramos O Señor,
eres digno de alabar.

We give you all the glory;
We worship you, our Lord.
You are worthy to be praised.

Te damos toda gloria;
te adoramos O Señor,
eres digno de alabar.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (adapted from Stephen M. Fearing)

**God of endless mercy,
we confess that we have often been swallowed up
by our greed and selfishness,
desiring that which we do not have,
filling our lives with things that do not save us.
We have been swept away by the floods of our own making,
polluting your creation,
neglecting to be faithful stewards of the earth.
We have attacked one another and led lives of violence,
sending missiles instead of accepting refugees,
ignoring your commandments.**

**Lord have mercy, for we have sinned and fallen short of your glory.
Christ have mercy, for we are broken and need your salvation.
Lord have mercy upon us and hear us as we pray
in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

SONG - O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer;
when I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer:
come and listen to me.

WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON - Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, 'What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.' Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.' Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, 'Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?' Esther said, 'A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!' Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, 'Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high.' And the king said, 'Hang him on that.' So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from

mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

GOSPEL LESSON* - Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SERMON - Pastor Aaron

RESPONSE

SONG - Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
not be all else to me save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, thy child shall I be,
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys,
bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

(To give online, visit rescov.org/give)

DOXOLOGY*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

SENDING

SONG* - God, Be the Love

God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me,
O Christ, surround me.

Bind to myself the name of Holy;
great cloud of witness enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness:
O Christ, surround me,
O Christ, surround me.

Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight;
flashing of lightning, strength of wind;
depth of the sea to soil of planet:
O Christ, surround me,
O Christ, surround me.

Walking behind to hem my journey,
going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and always,
O Christ, surround me,
O Christ, surround me.

Christ in the eye of all who see me;
Christ in the ear that hears my voice;
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me,
O Christ, surround me.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*