

June 20, 2021 – English Worship Service – 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Welcome & Invocation

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ! Welcome again to the second of our English-language worship services here at our temple. We have, what I hope to be a lovely service for you this afternoon. We are delighted that you took the time to be with us today.

Let us begin our worship with a brief moment of prayer:

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: *Praise, I will praise you Lord* [12-01]

1. Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart.
God, I will tell the wonders of your ways,
and glorify your name.
Praise, I will praise you Lord, with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!
2. Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart.
God, I will tell the wonders of your ways,
and glorify your name.
Love, I will love you Lord, with all my heart.
In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

Praise (*Adapted from Psalm 9:9-20*)

The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.
Those who know your name put their trust in you,
for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.
Sing praises to the LORD,
for the LORD does not forget the cry of the afflicted.
The LORD has made himself known, he has executed judgment;
the wicked are snared in the work of their own hands.
All the nations who forget God shall depart to Sheol,
for the needy shall not be forgotten,
nor the hope of the poor perish.
Rise up, O LORD! Do not let mortals prevail;
let the nations be judged before you.
Put them in fear, O LORD;
remind the nations that they are only human.

First Scripture Reading: Mark 4:35-41

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, '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 gale 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?'

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach the Lord with confidence. In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Lord of the outcast, God of the oppressed, you have created us to bear your image. While you provide refuge for all who come to you seeking hope and new life, we confess how we turn people away. Instead of building up one another in love, we break each other apart through complacency and indifference. Forgive us, Lord. Empower your people for the difficult task of reconciliation. Open our hearts to receive all who seek your promises.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

Prayer of Illumination

God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out upon us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture, our hearts and minds may be opened to know your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading: I Kings 8:22-30, 41-43

22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³He said, 'O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised

him, saying, “There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.” ²⁶Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

27 ‘But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Have regard to your servant’s prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today;²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you said, “My name shall be there”, that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays towards this place. ³⁰Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive.

41 ‘Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name ⁴²—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays towards this house, ⁴³then hear in heaven your dwelling-place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

Hymn: *Fairest Lord Jesus* [42-08]

1. Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
Thou of God to earth come down,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, Fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.
3. Fair is the sunshine, Fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast.
4. Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine.

Sermon: *The House Always Wins*

Interlude

Hymn: *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* [41-26]

1. Holy God, we praise Your Name;
Lord of all, we bow before You;
All on earth Your scepter claim,
All in heaven above adore You.
Infinite Your vast domain,
Everlasting is Your reign.
2. Hark, the loud celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy Lord.
3. All apostles join the strain
As Your sacred name they hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain,
And the blessed martyrs follow,
And from morn to set of sun,
Through the church the song goes on.
4. Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name You,
While in essence only One;
Undivided God we claim You,
And adoring bend the knee
While we own the mystery.

***Affirmation of Faith:** *from The Confession of Belhar* [10.5-10.6]

We believe, that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ. We believe that any teaching which attempts to legitimate forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.

Therefore, we reject any doctrine which, in such a situation sanctions in the name of the gospel or of the will of God the forced separation of people on the grounds of race and color and thereby in advance obstructs and weakens the ministry and experience of reconciliation in Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Almighty Lord, we give you thanks for this day, and we give you thanks you have invited us through your Son Jesus Christ into new life with you. Help us to live that new life by the power of your Holy Spirit. Empower us as your servants to proclaim the Good News in thought, Word and action. Instill within our hearts a genuine love for others, and grant us the courage to persevere in suffering and to hold fast to what is good. Help us to turn away from the ways evil or apathy, and instead to do all we can to seek your justice. Grant us the knowledge to confess our faults that you may share your grace for those times in which we fall short. Inspire us by the promises of your kingdom, and grant us the courage to extend your gracious invitation for all to hear.

Allow the lives of your disciples to be a blessing to all people. Help us to comfort the grieving and uphold the poor and those who despair. Help us to overcome our differences and to live together in genuine love and fellowship. Help us to live in harmony with neighbor and enemy alike, and to remember those who are in need. Give us the will to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, to heal the sick, to comfort the afflicted and to relieve all who suffer in mind, body or Spirit. Help us to forsake the narrow avenues of hatred and revenge that we might follow Jesus Christ along open pathways of humility and self-sacrifice. Give us the wisdom and understanding to know that evil cannot be overcome with evil, but evil can only be overcome with good.

In you we remember others, Lord. We commend the work of teachers, police officers, firefighters and all of those who use their vocation as a means of serving others. We pray for this church and for our denomination and for those who have dedicated those many gifts that sustain us in our calling. Give strength to those who proclaim the gospel. Sustain victims of violence or oppression and those who are persecuted for your sake. Help us to remember all of the saints who have served in this world you and who now rest with you in yours. Allow us to honor their many sacrifices by living lives of faithful witness.

And so we lift these prayers to you, Lord, using the words Jesus taught us, saying...

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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Charge & Benediction

Stay watchful.

Stand firm in your faith.

Be courageous and strong.

Let all that you do be done with love.

May the God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Amen!