

AUGUST 2, 2020
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE — *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* - Text by William Kethe

OLD HUNDRETH

CALL to WORSHIP

One: As the new heavens and the new earth remain before the Lord,

All: So shall the descendants and name of Israel remain.

One: From new moon to new moon, and from sabbath to sabbath,

All: All flesh shall come to worship before the Lord!

One: "All these things my hand has made," says the Lord,

All: Yet we are your beloved, whom you look upon.

One: To our God we give thanks and praise,

All: Let us worship God together.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Wondrous God who sets suns and moons above us, mountains and valleys beneath us, friends and strangers among us, we confess that we have been unfaithful to our covenant with you and with one another. We have worshipped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience. We have served our own self-interest instead of serving only you and your people. We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded, nor have we rightly loved ourselves. God of everlasting love, forgive us. With your unending grace bring us back into the fullness of our covenant with you and with one another. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Time for silent prayer and confession.)

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news: The Lord is faithful in all God's words and deeds. The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!

SCRIPTURE READING — Isaiah 66:1-2, 18-23

¹Thus says the Lord: Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is my resting place? ²All these things my hand has made, and so all these things are mine, says the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look, to the humble and contrite in spirit, who trembles at my word.

¹⁸For I know their works and their thoughts, and I am coming to gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and shall see my glory, ¹⁹and I will set a sign among them. From them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Put, and Lud—which draw the bow—to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the nations. ²⁰They shall bring all your kindred from all the nations as an offering to the Lord, on horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and on mules, and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the Lord, just as the Israelites bring a grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord. ²¹And I will also take some of them as priests and as Levites, says the Lord. ²²For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me,

says the Lord; so shall your descendants and your name remain. ²³ From new moon to new moon, and from sabbath to sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, says the Lord.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

AFFIRMATION of FAITH - from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

PAUSE for PRAYER

At this time, we invite you to take out a piece of paper and a pen, or talk with the people you are worshipping with today, and answer at least one of the following questions as we prepare to turn to God in prayer.

- 1) What are you most worried about as you look into the future?
- 2) When was the last time you felt comfort and what did it look like?
- 3) How could you be a comfort to someone else in this season of uncertainty?

POSTLUDE — *O for a World* – text by Miriam-Therese Winter

AZMON

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Rachel Rhodes – Senior Pastor

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla – Associate Pastor

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music

Sarah Zazzu – Liturgist

Prelude – Sopranos: Fran Akelewicz, Sara Carpenter (descant), Peggy Guenzel (descant), Elizabeth Lester-Abdalla, Kathryn Thomas; Altos: Carol Carpenter, Riley Dugan, Betsy Jurey, Cynthia Lang, Nancy Powers; Tenors: Karl Helland, Craig Tipton; Basses: Charlie Guenzel, Drew Hunger, Steve James, Seth McHenry; Piano: Mark Shockey; Descant: written by Tim Carpenter

Postlude – Jason Vodicka, organ

Damon Miller – Communications Coordinator

Photos provided by: Roger Anderson, Joan Barley, Dan Jones, Cindy Moskow & Geoff Smith