

AUGUST 23, 2020
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE — *Lead On, O King Eternal!* - arr. Ronald Arnatt

CALL to WORSHIP

One: We gather here in anticipation

All: Seeking an encounter with our Holy God.

One: Our God who comes among us how we least expect it,

All: Who invites us to wrestle with our questions and doubts,

One: Who invites us to the ministry of reconciliation,

All: Where we see our God face to face. Let us worship God together.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom of intellect and reason, and turn them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

(Time for silent prayer and confession.)

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news of the Gospel: Remember these things, O Jacob and Israel, I formed you; I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like a mist; return to me for I have redeemed you.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!

SCRIPTURE READING — Genesis 33:1-10

¹ Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids. ² He put the maids with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. ³ He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother.

⁴ But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

⁵ When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he said, “Who are these with you?” Jacob said, “The children whom God has graciously given your servant.” ⁶ Then the maids drew near, they and their children, and bowed down; ⁷ Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down; and finally Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. ⁸ Esau said, “What do you mean by all this company that I met?” Jacob answered, “To find favor with my lord.”

⁹ But Esau said, “I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself.” ¹⁰ Jacob said, “No, please; if I find favor with you, then accept my present from my hand; for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God—since you have received me with such favor.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

INVITATION to GIVE — *Come! Live in the Light!* - Text and music by David Haas

*Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.*

*Refrain:
We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.*

*Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and violence will be no more.*

*Refrain
Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love.*

Refrain

AFFIRMATION of FAITH - from *The Confession of Belhar*

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another. We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ and that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain. We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

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) Where have you seen God in the face of others?
- 2) Who do you believe God is calling you to love?
- 3) What act of "bowing down" do you believe God might be calling you towards?

POSTLUDE — *God Be with You Till We Meet Again* – text by Jerimiah Rankin

GOD BE WITH YOU

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Rachel Rhodes – Senior Pastor Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla – Associate Pastor
Tim Carpenter – Director of Music Riley Dugan – Liturgist
Prelude – Organ: Mark Shockey
Invitation to Give – Piano: Nancy Powers
Postlude – Singers: Fran Akelewicz, Carol Carpenter, Sara Carpenter, Karl Helland,
Betsy Jurey, Cynthia Lang, and Kathryn Thomas; Piano: Mark Shockey
Damon Miller – Communications Coordinator
Photos provided by: Roger Anderson, Robb Dugan, Cindy Moskow & Geoff Smith
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