

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE — *O Day of Rest and Gladness*

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDFÖGLEIN

Text by Christopher Wordsworth (stanzas 1-2:) and Charles Price (stanza 3)

CALL to WORSHIP — from *Psalm 8*

One: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. We gather to praise you!

All: When we look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established, we are overwhelmed.

One: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. We gather to celebrate you!

All: Who are we that you are mindful of us? Who are we that you bother with us at all?

One: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. We gather to worship you!

All: Who are we? We are yours. We gather to worship you alone. O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Let us worship God together.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Merciful God, you have made us in your image, and yet we reject the call to be yours. You have made us in your image, and yet we reject the parts of you we do not like. We love the stories of your creation. We love hearing about your power and your majesty that created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. We don't love hearing how you rested, or your command for us to do the same. We prefer to believe that rest is something we have to earn. We prefer to believe that rest is weak. We prefer to believe that rest is unacceptable in a world that beckons us toward power and prestige and productivity. Forgive us, O God, for failing to do as you command. Forgive us, O God, for picking and choosing among your commands for our life. Encourage us to see your Sabbath as a gift of grace, a holy time set apart. Empower us with the courage to reject the demands of the world, and instead turn our hearts fully toward you.

(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 — Selections from Genesis 1 & 2:1-3

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

AFFIRMATION of FAITH - from *Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions 57 & 60*

One: Which is the Fourth Commandment?

All: **The Fourth Commandment is, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor the stranger that is within thy gates: for six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it."**

One: How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?

All: **The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy. Thanks be to God.**

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) Do you ever experience God's gift of Sabbath? If so, how?
- 2) Apart from God, what in this world are you allowing to define your worthiness? Is that getting in the way of God's gift of Sabbath for you?
- 3) How might you live more freely into God's gift of rest?

POSTLUDE — *In God Alone* – music by Jacques Berthier, text by Taizé Community

*In God alone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace and joy.
Only in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace.*

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Rachel Rhodes – Senior Pastor

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla – Associate Pastor

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music

Tim Carpenter – Liturgist

Prelude – Sopranos: Carol Carpenter, Sara Carpenter, Kathryn Thomas;

Altos: Carol Carpenter, Betsy Jurey, Cynthia Lang, Nancy Powers;

Tenors: Carol Carpenter, Karl Helland, Nancy Powers;

Bass: Drew Hunger; Piano: Mark Shockey

Postlude – Sopranos: Carol Carpenter, Sara Carpenter;

Mezzo-Sopranos: Carol Carpenter, Sara Carpenter;

Alto: Carol Carpenter; MIDI: Tim Carpenter;

Music arranged by Tim Carpenter

Damon Miller – Communications Coordinator

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