

AUGUST 16, 2020  
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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**PRELUDE — *Write Your Blessed Name* - K. Lee Scott**

*Write Your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart,  
there to remain so indelibly engraved,  
that no prosperity,  
no adversity shall ever move me from Your love.*

*Be to me a strong tower of defense,  
a comforter in tribulation,  
a deliverer in distress,  
a very present help in trouble  
and a guide to heaven through the many temptations and dangers of this life.*

*Write Your blessed name...*

— Thomas á Kempis

**CALL to WORSHIP— from *Psalm 46***

One: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

All: **Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

One: Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

All: **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

One: Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.

All: **The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Let us worship God together!**

**PRAYER of CONFESSION**

Merciful God, too often we claim what is Yours as our own. Too often we ignore your leading and your charge for our lives. We prefer to be in control. We prefer to call the shots. We prefer to live as if we belong only to ourselves or to the things of this world and ignore the truth that, in reality, we belong solely to You. Forgive us, O God, for insisting that we sit in the driver's seat. Forgive us for our inability to turn our hearts and souls fully toward You and toward Your purpose. Instill in us a longing to serve You alone. Melt and mold our hearts and our lives to be a reflection of the One in whom we live, and move, and have our being.

*(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 — Mark 12:13-17

Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?” But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it.” And they brought one. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor's.” Jesus said to them, “Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.” And they were utterly amazed at him.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## AFFIRMATION of FAITH - *Apostles' Creed*

**I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## 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 in this world is vying for ownership of your heart and your soul and your devotion?
- 2) Where do you turn when you need to be reminded that you belong to God?
- 3) How is God asking for 25 cents from you this week? Or this day? Or this hour?

## POSTLUDE — *We Give Thee but Thine Own* – text by William How

SCHUMANN

### PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Rev. Rachel Rhodes – Senior Pastor

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music

Ruth Workman – Liturgist

Prelude – Piano: Jason Vodicka; Chancel Choir

Postlude – Organ: Jason Vodicka; MPC Congregation

Damon Miller – Communications Coordinator

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