

6th Sunday of Easter

May17th, 2020

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Those who are able are encouraged to stand.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Announcement about Laments and Prayer Requests
Request to contribute to online services through video

A MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 66:8-20

8 Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,

9 who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

10 For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

11 You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;

12 you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

13 I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows,

14 those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

15 I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

16 Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.

17 I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.

18 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

19 But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

20 Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

OPENING PRAYER

Be with us, Lord Jesus as we gather in Your name and make a special dedication of time to honor you, to honor our Father and also the Spirit. You told us that whenever we were gathered as two or more in Your name, you would be there. We want Your living presence in us, we want our lives molded around Your teaching. We want to honor the Father by being like you. Help us never to take for granted this huge gift of love you have offered on our behalf. Help us to be reminded of the cost of it all. Forgive us for being too busy or distracted by other things, for not fully recognizing what you've so freely given, and all that Christ has done for us. Amen.

HYMN #341 "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine"

CALL TO CONFESSION:

1 John 1: 8-9 "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Let us be truthful and confess our sins to the Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Great God of the Universe, who like a father promises us a wondrous inheritance, and like a mother loves us unconditionally--we come before you acknowledging your holy majesty, demonstrating to us in your creation, and revealing to us fully in the face of your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In him we have seen your glory, and have come to know the depth, breadth, and height of your love. Such love summons us to respond to love; yet, we confess, we have not loved you with our whole heart, nor have we forgiven others as you have forgiven us.

By your Holy Spirit, soften the hardness of our hearts, and empower us to glorify you with heartfelt worship and humble service, for the sake of Jesus, who loved us and gave himself for us.

LAMENT

You are invited to write down in a journal or a piece of paper things that you are mourning over or lamenting. These could be personal, national, or global. We think especially of those suffering from COVID 19 and isolation; for the victims of gun violence; for those suffering from abuse, and for those at risk financially due to economic restrictions.

(A time for silent and personal prayer...)

Psalm 42:1-6 As the deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, “Where is your God?” These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

**Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Col. 3:12–14 says:

As God’s own people, be merciful in action, kindly in heart, humble in mind.

Be always ready to forgive as freely as God has forgiven you. And, above everything else, be loving, and never forget to be thankful for what Christ has done for you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We have your Word, Lord God. It is food for our soul. We study and meditate and learn of Your love and Your plans for our salvation. Place in us hearts of flesh that we might understand Your message to us; and grant your blessing on these readings from your sacred Word.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Deuteronomy 6:20-25

20 When your children ask you in time to come, “What is the meaning of the decrees and the statutes and the ordinances that the Lord our God has commanded you?” **21** then you shall say to your children, “We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. **22** The Lord displayed before our eyes great and awesome signs and wonders against Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his household. **23** He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land that he promised on oath to our ancestors. **24** Then the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our lasting good, so as to keep us alive, as is now the case. **25** If we diligently observe this entire commandment before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us, we will be in the right.”

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Hey Hey Anybody Listening”

Chancel Choir

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Galatians 3:26-4:7

26 for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. 27 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring,[a] heirs according to the promise.

4 My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; 2 but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. 3 So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits[b] of the world. 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. 6 And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our[c] hearts, crying, "Abba![d] Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.[e]

SERMON The Spirit of Adoption

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN #442 "The Church's One Foundation"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH **From the Heidelberg Catechism**

Q59. What good does it do you, however, to believe all this?

A. In Christ I am righteous before God and heir to life everlasting.

Q60. How are you righteous before God?

A. Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.

Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments, of never having kept any of them, and of still being inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without any merit of my own, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, and as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is accept this gift with a believing heart.

Q61. Why do you say that through faith alone you are righteous?

A. Not because I please God by the worthiness of my faith. It is because only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness make me righteous before God, and because I can accept this righteousness and make it mine in no other way than through faith.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The world today teems with anticipation of businesses re-opening, of lives returning to pre-crisis comfort. Lord, Help us to achieve this.

Lord, we pray that you would cause this re-opening to occur in a responsible manner that does not place life at risk.

Lord we pray that we will remember lessons we have learned from being shut in for these months.

Lord, we pray that you would help us to recognize that disagreement need not be hate, and that every one of us bears Your image in the world. Make us conscious of what being the bearer of Your image means,

In crises and in calm

In pain and in enjoyment

At work and at play

In dedicated worship and also in everything that is mundane.

Cause us to remember who You are, what we are and to remember our total dependence upon You, Your gifts and Your love.

Lord we pray that you will protect the vulnerable among us, from the virus but also from the ill treatment of others less vulnerable

Lord, we pray that you will guide each of us to act intelligently and rationally as our open movement slowly returns, and to provide for those who have been harmed the worst from this disease and its economic fallout.

Give all of us our daily bread, and the wisdom to realize what that really means.

We continue to pray for the well being of those who are sick, heal who you will, and comfort the loved ones that are left behind.

We continue to pray for doctors, nurses, EMT's, police, firefighters and all of the workers who have helped our essential systems to operate.

For our elected leaders and for leaders of all countries of the world to see that it is times like these that prove that we manufacture our own barriers to communication and love. Help them to learn to tear those barriers down.

We especially pray for.....

And we pray, as our Lord and savior, Jesus, the Christ taught us,

LORD'S PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

HYMN #438 "Blessed Be the Tie that Binds"

OFFERING

Let's close our worship by giving our gifts to the Lord!

Lord, our gifts to you and your work are from our first fruits, not from what's left. We owe everything to You and we hold nothing back. Provide for us as we provide for others.

Please remember FFPC in your giving. You can give online, through your own bank or through our website (www.ffpc.org). You can also mail any gifts, pledges or donations to the Church Office, 503 South Leroy, Fenton, Michigan 48430.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Heavenly Father, our gifts today are one way we can be your messenger to the poor, to the sick, to the oppressed, and to those who do not know you or have chosen to turn their back on you. Let us recognize that your love for all of creation includes not only all those who seek you but also those who would seek you if they knew how. Bless our gifts that they may make a difference in our community.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord be kind and gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor

and give you peace.

May the Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**