

**2nd Sunday after Pentecost    June 14th, 2020**

**10:00 a.m.**

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

\*Those who are able are encouraged to stand.

**PRELUDE**

“I Stand in Awe”  
Cindy Crawford

**WELCOME**

- ❖ **Announcement about Laments and Prayer Requests**
- ❖ **Request to contribute to online services through video**
- ❖ **Quick announcement about Session Appointed Task Force to reopen Sanctuary.**
- ❖ **Recognizing Youth Choirs**
- ❖ **Recognizing Bruce Nieuwenhuis**

**A MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 116

Thanksgiving for Recovery from Illness

**1** I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

**2** Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

**3** The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

**4** Then I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray, save my life!”

**5** Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

**6** The Lord protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

**7** Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

**8** For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

**9** I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

**10 I kept my faith, even when I said, “I am greatly afflicted”;**

**11 I said in my consternation, “Everyone is a liar.”**

**12 What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?**

**13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,**

**14 I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.**

**15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.**

**16 O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.**

**You have loosed my bonds.**

**17 I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.**

**18 I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,**

**19 in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

**Praise the Lord!**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

LORD Jesus, we come to worship. We worship You, the father and the spirit, 3 in one. Our lives, our happiness, our peace and our security come from You alone. We treasure the gifts You have given us but we ask you to give us the heart to know that we cannot rely on our gifts alone. You are the true power and force in the world and we are Your servants and children. Bless us, in the name of Jesus that we may act and live as Your people. Amen

**HYMN #738**            “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

## **CALL TO CONFESSION:**

We have been blessed by God, through Christ, with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. God’s grace has granted us redemption through Jesus’ blood, forgiveness of trespass, wisdom and insight into the mystery of God’s will and an inheritance of eternal hope in Christ. Yet we squander these gifts like inconsiderate children who would rather play with the packaging than appreciate the treasure inside.

Let us confess our sins together.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)**

**Lord of all, We confess that we have glibly called upon your name, While our hearts have wandered far from you. We have heard your word, but have disregarded it, choosing to trust in our own wits and strength rather than relying upon your gift of abundant life, freely promised to all who place their trust in you. All of us have sinned, and need a Savior.**

**In tender mercy, forgive us. Restore to us of your salvation, deliver to us the joy of your salvation, deliver us from all our fears; be exalted in us, among us, and through us, for the sake of the one who died that we might live, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

## **LAMENT**

You are invited to express in a journal or a piece of paper grief and frustration at the brokenness of the world. These could be personal, national, or global and do not have to be situations in which our community is directly culpable or blameworthy. We think especially of those suffering from COVID 19 and isolation; for the victims of violence and racism; for those suffering from abuse, and for those at risk financially due to economic restrictions...

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

## **DECLARATION OF PARDON:**

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

As the sons of Korah say in the Psalm, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" LORD, we hunger and thirst for your word. Bless us as we are filled. Amen.

## **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-5; Psalm 139:23-24**

<sup>1</sup> A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord - <sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give

decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! <sup>24</sup> And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

Over and Over  
Illuminate Choir

## **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Ephesians 4:1-13

<sup>4</sup> I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup> But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." <sup>9</sup> (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended[a] into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup> The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

## **SERMON**

"The Gifts of the Spirit"

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**HYMN** #233 The Day of Resurrection

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** From the Heidelberg Catechism

Q 72. Does this outward washing with water itself wash away sins?

**A. No, only Jesus Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all sins.**

Q 73. Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism the water of rebirth and the washing away of sins?

**A. God has good reason for these words. To begin with, God wants to teach us that the blood and Spirit of Christ take away our sins just as water removes dirt from the body. But more important, God wants to assure us, by this divine pledge and sign, that we are as truly washed of our sins spiritually as our bodies are washed with water physically.**

Q74 . Should infants also be baptized?

**A. Yes. Infants as well as adults are included in God's covenant and people, and they, no less than adults, are promised deliverance from sin through Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit who produces faith. Therefore, by baptism, the sign of the covenant, they too should be incorporated into the Christian church and distinguished from the children of unbelievers. This was done in the Old Testament by circumcision, which was replaced in the New Testament by baptism.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Dear God, you are our refuge and our strength; you are an ever present help in our troubles. Teach us to not fear, even though our world is changing, even though we feel our foundations trembling and waters that were calm long ago are roaring and foaming.

It would seem, Lord, that you are visiting desolation upon the earth. Nature is defying our dominion. The floods in Midland, storms on our great lakes, tornados changing the face of the earth. We have seen riots and violence. We have had our hearts broken with the testimony of those, especially our brothers and sisters of color, describing police violence and the normalization of racism. We have struggled with our frailty and we all suffer with the losses and deprivations of COVID-19. We are barely holding back the fear that this disease could come back to devastate us again.

There is much that seems to be challenged and changing. Teach us the difference between that which needs to remain and that which you are reshaping. Teach us to seek justice and to love mercy, not just for our neighborhoods but for the world. Teach us where we should act and when we should listen.

Make war cease to the ends of the earth, break our weapons, dull our sharpened edges, burn our defensive posturing down around us. Teach us to be still and know that you are God. Exalt yourself among the nations, be exalted in the earth! May you be our only refuge, O Lord of Hosts be with us.

May we be a community in which you dwell. May we be a church which is fed by your Spirit, your holy habitation. May we encourage each other to good works and holy living. May we build each other up and bear each other's burden. May we be your holy and beloved people, clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. And may your Kingdom grow so that all are counted as holy and beloved.

We pray for those who are ill:

We pray for those who are grieving:

And we rejoice with those who rejoice:

We pray all these things in the mighty and powerful name of Jesus who taught his disciples to pray saying...

## **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 #634**      "To God be the Glory"

## **OFFERING**

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

Giving, in the days of the Temple, was mandated in form and amount. Now with God's Law written on our hearts with the sacrifice of Jesus; the apostle Paul said to the church in Corinth "whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully[a] will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

While it is unfortunate that some have bent this to support a “prosperity gospel” we know, at FFPC that giving is how we recognize and worship the lord, and we are taught that that generosity is one of the fruits of the Spirit. Let us exercise that gift and make it strong.

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

May the Lord bless the gifts made in his worship to accomplish HIS goals for the Body and for our community, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

### **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

As you go on your way, may the Lord Jesus Christ go with you. May he be near you to defend you; may he go before you to show you the way; behind you to encourage you; beside you to befriend you; above you to watch over you; and within you to give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, God forevermore. Amen.

### **APPRECIATION TO OUR CHOIRS**

### **CHORAL BENEDICTION**

May the Peace of Christ be with you...