

7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 19th, 2020

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Those who are able are encouraged to stand.

WELCOME

- Announcement about Laments and Prayer Requests
- Request to contribute to online services through video
- Opportunities for Leadership: Nominating Committee, volunteers for technology.
- Table flower dates are available for July 29th and the last 4 Sundays in August.
Please contact Heidi Roberts at roberts68@charter.net or 810-625-4637.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGS Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
- 2 **You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**
- 3 You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 4 **Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.**
- 5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
- 6 **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**
- 7 Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?
- 8 **If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**
- 9 If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
- 10 **even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.**
- 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"
- 12 **even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.**
- 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.
- 24 **See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious Heavenly Father. We thank you for causing our situation to allow us to worship you in the physical presence of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We thank you for the development of technology that allows those of our congregation who wisely stay at home to be able to participate in worship with us, though at a distance. May you bless us and keep us safe and healthy while we carve out this time of worship and praise and hasten the days when none of us needs to be or feel apart. And we welcome the coming days when we can be reunited with our loved ones in YOUR kingdom to come. We ask this in the name of Jesus our redeemer, AMEN.

HYMN #708

"We Give You But Your Own"

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Let go up to the house of the Lord. Let us go because we are called. Let us gather before the Lord in prayer offering our rags in exchange for the rich clothing of our Father's compassion and mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? Even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

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...)

We offer our grief and our lament to you O God. Hear our prayer.

Comfort our hearts, give rest to our minds, open our eyes that we might see your purpose and your plan in all of this pain.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

Wherever we wander we cannot step outside the bounds of God's presence and power. God is faithful to forgive and so we trust that we can never step beyond the reach of God's forgiveness. Blessed be God the father who forgives us through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

A MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP Massanetta News with Lindsey Gibb

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

May we find favor in the eyes of the LORD, and may the LORD bless these readings from HIS sacred writings. Let us learn and apply the lessons in our lives today and always. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 4:19-31 Sorrow for a Doomed Nation

- 19 My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain! Oh, the walls of my heart! My heart is beating wildly; I cannot keep silent; for I hear the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.**
- 20 Disaster overtakes disaster, the whole land is laid waste. Suddenly my tents are destroyed, my curtains in a moment.**
- 21 How long must I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet?**
- 22 “For my people are foolish, they do not know me; they are stupid children, they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil, but do not know how to do good.”**
- 23 I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light.**
- 24 I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro.**
- 25 I looked, and lo, there was no one at all, and all the birds of the air had fled.**
- 26 I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins before the Lord, before his fierce anger.**
- 27 For thus says the Lord: The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end.**
- 28 Because of this the earth shall mourn, and the heavens above grow black; for I have spoken, I have purposed; I have not relented nor will I turn back.**
- 29 At the noise of horseman and archer every town takes to flight; they enter thickets; they climb among rocks; all the towns are forsaken, and no one lives in them.**
- 30 And you, O desolate one, what do you mean that you dress in crimson, that you deck yourself with ornaments of gold, that you enlarge your eyes with paint? In vain you beautify yourself. Your lovers despise you; they seek your life.**
- 31 For I heard a cry as of a woman in labor, anguish as of one bringing forth her first child, the cry of daughter Zion gasping for breath, stretching out her hands, “Woe is me! I am fainting before killers!”**

SPECIAL MUSIC Benjamin and Danqi Gittens

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 25:1-13

This parable of Jesus is a message to believers - the Church. Jesus is the bridegroom and the church is the bride, with the 10 virgins representing the people of faith. Jesus' return is delayed in the hope that none shall perish, but his return is coming and the time is not known. Those pure in faith have extra oil, are ready and are accepted when the bridegroom comes, and the foolish don't have adequate faith and are not prepared for this coming. Pray that we, each of us be among the prepared - the return of Jesus is coming and we don't know when.

The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

25 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷ Then all those bridesmaids[c] got up

and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later the other bridesmaids[d] came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹² But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

SERMON “Lament for God’s People”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN #792 “There is a Balm in Gilead”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Heidelberg Catechism

Q92. What is God’s law?

A. God spoke all these words:

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.”

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

“You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

“You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.”

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

“Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work— you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.”

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

“Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving to you.”

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

“You shall not murder.”

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

“You shall not commit adultery.”

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

“You shall not steal.”

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”¹

Q93. How are these commandments divided?

A. Into two tables. The first has four commandments, teaching us how we ought to live in relation to God. The second has six commandments, teaching us what we owe our neighbor.¹

Q94. What does the Lord require in the first commandment?

A. That I, not wanting to endanger my own salvation, avoid and shun all idolatry,¹ sorcery, superstitious rites,² and prayer to saints or to other creatures.³ That I rightly know the only true God,⁴ trust him alone,⁵ and look to God for every good thing⁶ humbly⁷ and patiently,⁸ and love,⁹ fear,¹⁰ and honor¹¹ God with all my heart. In short, that I give up anything rather than go against God’s will in any way.¹²

Q95. What is idolatry?

A. Idolatry is having or inventing something in which one trusts in place of or alongside of the only true God, who has revealed himself in the Word.¹

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God in Heaven, we are all supposed to wear masks to protect ourselves and others from COVID. We are all supposed to keep a healthy distance so as not to increase infection. Many choose to stay home from events and activities that we might have been nonchalant about this time last year. Masking, avoiding and hiding has become our defense from disease.

Lord, in your mercy, give wisdom and insight to doctors and researchers so that they might continue to improve the treatment of COVID for everyone and that soon there will be a vaccine capable of resolving this virus for everyone, rich and poor, and of all ethnicities.

While we mask ourselves, remind us Lord, that we cannot hide from you. Even as we stay at home, as we cover our faces, as we lay alone in hospital beds, you know us, you love us, delight in us and you are working in our lives.

Even as we avoid contact with others, you continue to call us into a relationship with you. You continue to claim space in our hearts. You continue to express love toward us.

As you transcend our masks with your love, teach us to do the same. Help us to love in spite of lack of physical contact. Help us to not resort to masking our hearts and fall numb to other pressing issues of our time. Even as we are overwhelmed, empower us to love those who are of different races than us in real ways, not just words. Help us to seek to build relationships even when there are clear obstacles of lifestyle, politics and preference. Help us to transcend the masks of those around us with your love so that the world might know your goodness and delight in you as you delight in the world.

Because you delight in us, we offer our prayers to you. We lift those who are ill, injured and those who are recovering from disease and procedures:

Because you transcend the masks that we hide behind we pray for those who suffer from misfortune, grief, depression and emotional pain:

Because you are Our Loving Father we know there is joy to be found in this life and joy to expect in the next. And so we rejoice with those who are rejoicing today:

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 #801

“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll not want”

OFFERING

Psalm 24 starts: “The earth is the LORD’s, and the fullness thereof, the world and all who dwell therein. ²For He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters. ³Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in His holy place? ⁴He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear deceitfully. ⁵He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from the God of his salvation. ⁶Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face, O God of Jacob.

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD, when we give from unashamed love, you turn our giving into an act of worship, as we learn generosity and to love our neighbor. We can love our neighbor by helping to feed and to clothe him and her, but also by pointing the way toward your love and living as an example of our relationship with YOU. Guide us to use these gifts to YOUR purposes that we may deepen our relationship with YOU, Your Spirit and Your Son, our savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Let the majesty of the Father be the light by which you walk, the compassion of the Son be the love by which you walk, the presence of the Spirit be the power by which you walk.

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

Flowers on the Communion Table: Spread love and joy