

Pentecost 2A
Online Worship Bulletin
June 14, 2020

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Lord, Jesus Christ, My Life, My Light*

by: J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Raise your voices in response to God's goodness.

We praise you, O Lord, for all the blessings you have given us.

Lift your hearts in sweet surrender to God's mercy.

We thank you, O Lord, for hearing the prayers of our hearts.

God is good; Praise be to God!

The love and mercy of God never fails.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, this day we will hear of Sarah, who in her old age, conceived a son. We stand in that long line of those who are called. We are ready to work for you that this broken world may be healed. Give us courage and laughter as we worship you today.

Amen.

HYMN *The God of Abraham Praise* by: D. ben Judah & Hebrew Melody

The God of Abraham praise, Who reigns enthroned above;

The ancient of eternal days, The God of love!

The Lord, the great I Am, By earth and heaven confessed,

We bow before Your holy name, Forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, High surging where it will;
In prophet's word You spoke of old and You speak still.
Established is Your law, And changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart, On sea, or land.

You have eternal life Implanted in the human soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay, While ages roll.
We praise You living God! We praise Your holy name;
The first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we confess the blindness that is not even aware of sinning;
the pride that dares not admit that it is wrong;
the selfishness that can see nothing but its own will;

***the righteousness that knows no fault;
the callousness that has ceased to care;
the defiance that does not regret its own sins;
the evasion that always tries to make excuses;
the coldness of heart that is too hardened to repent.
God, we are sinners; be merciful to us.***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them...." (John 20:21-23)

By the authority of Jesus Christ I declare that God has mercy on you, pardons you and sets you free.

***We trust that our sins are forgiven through Jesus Christ our Savior. May God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.
Thanks be to God. Amen.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 18:1-15

SERMON *The Courage To Laugh*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe with the Bible

That there is a time to weep and a time to laugh

We believe with Chrysostom

That laughter has been implanted in our souls

We believe with Aquinas

That there is a time for playful deeds and jokes

We believe with Luther

That you have as much laughter as you have faith

We believe with John Calvin

That we are nowhere forbidden to laugh

We believe with Chesterton

That a good joke is the closest thing we have to divine revelation

We believe with Charles Schulz

That humor is proof that everything is going to be alright with God nevertheless!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.*

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

HYMN *Song of Hope* (3 times) by: A. Schutmaat & Argentine Folk Melody
*May the God of hop go with us every day,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace,
Singing, share our joy with all,
Working for a world that's new,
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *My Soul, Now Bless Thy Maker praise God* by: J. C. Bach

Today's Call to worship and Opening Prayer are written by Nancy C. Townley for the *ministrymatters.com* website. The confession and Assurance of Pardon are by Rev. David Beswick a pastor in the Uniting Church of Australia. The Affirmation of Faith is from y the First Presbyterian Church of Sterling, Illinois.

Tatiana Akhounzianova is the church organist and our pianist for these online services.