Pentecost 15A

Online & Outdoor Worship Bulletin September 13, 2020

WELCOME

PRELUDE: As with Gladness Men of Old by: H. Markworth

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing songs of hope and peace.

God's love and power have lifted us.

Sing songs of mercy and grace.

God's mercy and forgiveness frame our lives.

Thanks be to God for all God's love and mercy.

Praise be to God for the healing power God extends to each one of us.

OPENING PRAYER

We sing and speak your praise, O God, grateful for the many ways in which you have healed us. Keep our hearts, our minds, and our spirits open to learn ways in which we can offer healing love for others. For we ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

HYMN Joyful, We Adore Thee by: H. van Dyke & L. van Beethoven

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Your works with joy surround You, Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays, Stars and angels sing around You, Center of unbroken praise; Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea, Chanting bird and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus, Which the morning stars began; God's own love is reigning o'er us, Joining people hand in hand. Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife; Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Just like Peter, Lord, we want to get all "legalistic" about forgiveness. We want to know if one time to forgive someone is sufficient. We might even be willing to extend forgiveness twice, but we have a tendency to follow the adage, "Once burned, twice shy." Teach us to be humble and merciful. Remind us of the many ways in which you have offered, time and time again, your forgiving love to us. Heal our wounds and bind up our brokenness. For we ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Silent Personal Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In the name of Jesus Christ, each one of us has received healing mercies. We are now given opportunities to offer forgiveness and redemption to one another.

May the peace of Jesus Christ be with us all! Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

SERMON One of You Is the Messiah

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in an innovative God, who does not wait for us to find ourselves but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way.

I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God's crucial initiative, that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power to become, both in creed and deed, the children of the living God.

I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us, calling us to follow him into an obedience which is true liberty and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship.

I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ's people, called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations as we travel the road towards the "promised land" of God's future.

Because Christ has called me, in this I truly believe. Amen.

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

Offertory: Iberian Nocturne by: C. Rollin

Prayer of Dedication

HYMN

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind by: J. G. Whittier & F. C. Maker (You may use: Dear Lord, Creator, Good and Kind)

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways; reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find, in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard beside the Syrian sea the gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word rise up and follow thee. O Sabbath rest by Galilee, O calm of hills above, where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity, interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease; take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm; let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm!

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Thy Temple I Repair

by: L. Lene

Today's written prayers are by Nancy C. Townley for the ministrymatters.com website. The Affirmation of Faith, entitled This We Believe is by the late Rev. Bruce Prewer of the Uniting Church of Australia.

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

Prayer Concerns

Bill Richter Nina (Tatiana's Mother) Kristin & Karin & Steve (Joyce Koenig) George Armenti III Ann Ventura (Toni Hopcraft) B.J. Cardinal Robin Schmidt Art Fletcher Jennifer Moore (Veronica Moore) Bill Hurlock (Joyce Koenig), Phyllis Clemson, Justin Byrnes (Tom Parziale) Bryan Hague Al Wermuth (Paul & Sue Wermuth) Vicky Sama (Joanne Sama) Marge McKeever (Brooke and David Parziale) Sheryl Griefe, Jean Marie Dowling (Lore & Rich Pateman) Dorothy Malfatone (Carolyn Malfatone).

Deaths

Frank Cirone (brother-in-law of Tony Sarao)

Anniversaries

Janet & Tom Parziale – 15-Sept.; Trevor & Nancy Dalin-Peters – 16-Sept.; Jeff & Lynn Blakeslee – 17-Sept.