

Pentecost 17A
Online & Outdoor Worship Bulletin
September 27, 2020

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Christ, the Life of All the Living* J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus has called us here this day.

We are here, although for some of us it was not an easy choice.

Often what we say and do are very different.

Help us follow God's will, not with lip service, but with true humility.

Come, now is the time to worship.

Now is the time of healing, restoration, and hope.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, who lifts us up, reside in our hearts today. Help us to listen closely for your word to us. Remind us that you are always with us, throughout all of our lives. Give us confidence in your presence, so that we may go into your world ready to witness to your love through our works and our deeds, for we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN *Let Us With A Gladsome Mind* J. Milton, J. Frelinghausen, J.B. Wilkes

***Let us, with a gladsome mind,
Praise the Lord who is so kind:
For God's mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.***

***God, with all-commanding might
Filled the new-made world with light:
For God's mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.***

***All things living God does feed,
With Full measure meets their need:
For God's mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.***

***Let us, with a gladsome mind,
Praise the Lord, who is so kind:
For God's mercies shall endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How quick we are to say yes to you, O Lord, and then we turn around and forget our bold words of commitment. We really want to serve, but we are very weak and are easily drawn away by cares and fears. We pledge ourselves to working for your kingdom but find ourselves pulled this way and that by other demands on our time and energy. Forgive us, O Lord, when we so quickly drop our commitments to serving you. Heal our spirits and give us the bold courage to truly be your disciples. For we ask these things in Jesus' name.

(Silent Personal Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God knows our hearts and our spirits. God sees our struggles and forgives our weakness. Know that it is in God's healing love that you live and move and have your being.

We rejoice in the good news that God is with us always. Amen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE READING *Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32*

Hear what the spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON *Welcoming Transformation*

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: *Barcarolle*

by: F. Burgmuller

Prayer of Dedication

HYMN

O Jesus I Have Promised

J.R. Bode & A.H. Mann

*O Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
Be thou forever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my guide.*

*O let me feel thee near me!
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But Jesus, draw thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.*

*O let me hear thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self will.
O speak to reassure me,*

**To hasten or control;
O speak and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee,
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my Friend.**

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men

J.G. Walther

This is the last Sunday to make a Mission of the Month donation to Family Promise for this year. Please consider a gift to benefit the homeless of Morris County. You may place it in the offering plate at the outdoor service or mail it into the church; please put "Family Promise" on the memo line of your check.

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/pianist.

Prayer Concerns

Bill Richter, Nina (Tatiana's Mother), Kristin & Karin & Steve (Joyce Koenig), George Armenti III, Ann Ventura (Toni Hopcraft), B.J. Cardinali, 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), Debra Sprague, Carol Masatis (Sue and Paul Wermuth), Trish (Lynn Rosol).

Birthdays