



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2020

Order of Service

Welcome

Prelude *“I Need Thee Every Hour and Sweet Hour of Prayer”* (arr. Sun-Ahn)
(Seok-gi Hong-violin, Yohan Kim-cello, Dobin Park-piano)

Tower Bell

Introit

* Call to Worship

L: Come, let us Worship God.

What shall we bring before the God of compassion?

M: **We bring our bodies and spirits – and we are in need of healing.**

L: What shall we bring before the God of eternal vision?

M: **We bring our dreams and hopes to be fulfilled.**

L: What shall we bring before the God of everlasting love?

M: **We bring our gratitude and possessions.**

L: What shall we bring before the God of all good gifts?

M: **We bring ourselves. May our offerings be holy and acceptable to God.**

L: Let us Worship the One who has given us everything, the Lord our God!

* Prayer of Adoration & Confession

Gracious God, we are so often content to sink into the background when you have called us to be bold in the faith. We are so often willing to accept mediocrity, so often hesitant to risk. Even though we are quick to say that you will keep us safe from harm, we cling to the trappings of this world as if they, and not you, were our God.

O God, we confess that we bury our talents. We confine our grace to ourselves rather than passing it on to others. Regardless of what you have entrusted us, we often envy those who have more. At other times, we do not see possessions as an instrument you have given us, but as that of our own doing and very little of yours. We prefer to

invest in ourselves rather than in the life to which you have called us as disciples. Forgive us and restore our stewardship to us, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

P: Hear the Good News! The greatest gift is faith – faith in God’s amazing, unconditional love and forgiveness, and in our opportunity for new life in Christ. This is grace poured out in glorious reality for all who sincerely repent of their sins and desire to grow into the fullness of their potential in Christ Jesus. Praise be to God for such assurance and hope! Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!

M: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Scripture for the Day

From the Poetry of the Old Testament:

Psalm 90:1-12

¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place^[a]
in all generations.

² Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³ You turn us^[b] back to dust,
and say, “Turn back, you mortals.”

⁴ For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.

⁵ You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
⁷ For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
⁸ You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end^[d] like a sigh.
¹⁰ The days of our life are seventy years,
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span^[d] is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.
¹² So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

Anthem

“The Majesty and Glory of Your Name”

(Fettke/Johnson)

When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of your fingers;
The moon and stars suspended in space.
Oh, what is man, that you are mindful of him?

O Lord, our God the majesty and glory of your name
Transcends the earth and fills the heavens.
O Lord, our God, little children praise You perfectly,
And so would we, and so would we.

Alleluia, Alleluia! The majesty and glory of Your name.
Alleluia!

Scripture for the Day

From the Letters of Paul:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters,^[a] you do not need to have anything written to you. **2** For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3** When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! **4** But you, beloved,^[b] are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; **5** for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. **6** So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; **7** for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. **8** But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. **9** For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Pastoral Prayer

Lords 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Stewardship Moment

Jan Knepshield

Offertory

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

(Molly Ijames)

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;

I give Thee back the life I own, that in Thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to Thee;

My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in Thy sunshine’s blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee;

I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain, that morn shall ever tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to hide from Thee; I lay in dust life’s glory dead,

And from the ground there blossoms red, life that shall endless be.

Scripture for the Day

From the Gospels

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents,^[a] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your

talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?' ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Sermon "Well Done!" Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

***Hymn** "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" #572

***Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Postlude "Rigadoon" (G. F. Handel)

Today's Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Rev. Marty Westermeyer

Liturgist: Tom Williams

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Thanks to all the musicians and to Michael Sullivan and Dobin Park for assisting with filming and to Dobin Park for film editing.

Hymn

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

(Faithfulness)

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no
shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions
they fail not; as thou has been thou forever wilt be.*

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy
hand hath provided-great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thy own dear
Presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright
Hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy
hand hath provided-great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*