



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 4, 2021

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of justice, in baptism You anointed us to live boldly in the reality of Your already-present kingdom. We confess that we have not always fulfilled our calling. We have not always used Your power to serve our neighbors. We have often ignored oppression and injustice. We have sometimes conveniently turned our backs on Your beloved children both here and abroad, who hunger and thirst in a world of plenty. Forgive us, Lord. Help us become more courageous servants of Your justice, peace, and wholeness, and to spread wider Your Realm; in Jesus' name. Amen. [Silence is kept]

Assurance of Pardon

The Psalmist reminds us (Ps. 103): “The Lord does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. As far as the east is from the west God removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for all his creatures--including you and me!

***Gloria Patri**

(Creatorex)

**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 Lesson

From the Psalter: Psalm 103:1-11

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

² Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—

³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

⁴ who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
⁵ who satisfies you with good as long as you live^[a]
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
⁶ The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
⁸ The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

Anthem

“Great, Great Morning” (Joseph M. Martin)

My Lord, what a morning when the stars begin to fall.
It will be a great, great morning; it will come without a warning
when we hear that trumpet sound.
Though we may not know the hour, we know Christ will come in power
and His trumpet blast will shake the ground.
All the saints will rise and be taken to the skies.
They will meet King Jesus in the air.
In-a that great getting up morning; fare thee well.
It's gonna be a getting up morning,
Great day, the righteous marching, great day!
I'll fly away, O glory! I'll fly away, in the morning,
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by.
In the twinkling of an eye, we will mount up to the sky.
Alleluia, we shall all be changed.
It will be a great, great morning, it will come without a warning.
O I will fly, I'll fly away.

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Bidding Prayer

*Our pastoral/congregational prayer today will unfold as a Bidding Prayer. The Pastor will offer petitions for everyone to hear and give a response. At the end of each petition, the Pastor will say “Most Loving Creator, hear our prayers,” and ALL then respond together saying “**We thank you Lord.**”*

Offertory Invitation

“Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love” (Lao Tzu). Let us give profoundly, in confidence, that God uses what we bring for Love!

Offertory

“Trust in the Lord”

(Allen Pote)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and lean not, lean not upon your own understanding.
In all your ways, in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will show you the way. He will show you the way.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind and strength.
Love your neighbor, your neighbor as yourself.
Love and trust in the Lord. He will show you the way.

Scripture Lesson

From the Gospels: Matthew 5:38-48

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ⁴⁰ and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; ⁴¹ and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴² Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters,^[a] what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Sermon "It's ALL Liberation Theology" Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion Prayer

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe, for You made all things and called them good—earth, sea, and sky are Yours, every tree and bird, each seed sprouting, every firefly twinkling and every drop of precious water is a witness to Your grace.

ALL: We give You thanks this day for Your generosity, for You are the giver of every good gift. Today we especially give You thanks for the gift of freedom, for those who have worked and sacrificed to honor that gift, and for the many privileges we enjoy in this place.

Pastor: We thank You for the gift of this community, the gift of curious minds and ingenuity, the privilege of learning and teaching. We thank You that in Christ, You show us beyond question how the truth always sets us free.

ALL: We thank You for your Son who became flesh and lived among us in order that we might know the gift of Your abundant life right here in these bodies, right here in this Body. When we forget that all we have--from every tiny bone to every giant cathedral--is a gift from You, call us back to Your truth.

Pastor: When we are tempted by the siren song of individual independence, remind us that we are but one part of Your Body on earth, that Your Church knows no borders, no boundaries.

ALL: When we separate this earth from Your Spirit, give us eyes to see and ears to hear Your breath in every heartbeat, every gust of wind, every creaking joint, every neighbor's laugh and every enemy's tear.

Pastor: We hold in Your light those who live in fear, in violence, under oppression.

ALL: We remember Your people in Syria, in Afghanistan, in Iran; in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, in Surfside, Florida, and in the streets and homes of our own neighborhood.

Pastor: As we gather at this table, we remember that many are hungry.

ALL: As we share the cup together, we remember that many are thirsty.

Pastor: May the day come soon when there may be food and water for all. May the day come soon when justice and peace take the place of violence.

ALL: May the day come soon when Your freedom may be known by all of creation.

Pastor: Many grains come together to make bread—as we eat this feast, draw us together in Your Spirit.

ALL: Make us again into Your body, loving, serving, and caring for the world.

Pastor: We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray together...

The 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 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.

The Recollection and Consecration

Taking Communion Together

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

At Your table God, You renew us and give us courage to be Your people, to show Your justice, grace, mercy, peace, and love, and to be a part of your transformation of our world. You help us use our freedom to liberate others, and show them Your glory, for this and all Your gifts and we sing Your praise and glory forever! Amen

Hymn

“For This Land in All Its Wonder (CWM RHONDDA)”

For this land in all its wonder, for each city, farm and town,
For each mountain filled with splendor, for each place where love is found,
For the freedoms we enjoy here,
God, may thanks to you abound! God, may thanks to you abound!

May we be a nation seeking ways that are both wise and fair,
May our living and our speaking serve your purpose everywhere.
May we follow where you lead us;
God, this is our hope and prayer! God, this is our hope and prayer!

Benediction**Postlude**

*“The Star and Stripes Forever” (John Philip Sousa -
arr. Mack Wilberg)*

(Dobin Park, Michael Sullivan - Piano 1)

(John Haynes, Toni Sheffer - Piano 2)

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The Prayer of Confession (adapted) is from LiturgyLink
(www.liturgylink.net), submitted by Rev. Nathan Williams, Covenant
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Rev. Teri Peterson, the Presbyterian Church of Palatine, IL.

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Jeannette's Songs of Grace.

Today's Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

Liturgist: Diana Stamm

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

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and to Dobin Park for film editing.

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