



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 8, 2021

Thoughts of Preparation

Jesus calls us friends. God reaches toward us, not as a fearsome master or judge, but a friend, beckoning us to reach back. -- Diana Butler Bass, Freeing Jesus

Here's a funny thing: When Jesus showed up on the scene of history, he didn't show up with an eighty-two-page statement of faith that he asked everyone to sign without reservations before they could be part of his crew. He didn't seek out the people who had their theology pretty tight (in fact, he was constantly arguing with this group)...Instead, Jesus sought out the people who knew they didn't have it all figured out—which is comforting for a person like me. “Come, and follow me.” It was the simplest, but most profound, invitation ever—one we lose when we adopt the mindset that being “in” is anything more than being on a journey to try to follow Jesus wherever he leads us in our thinking or our doing.

-- Benjamin L. Corey, Unafraid: Moving Beyond Fear-Based Faith

Welcome

Prelude

“Amazing Grace”
(Dobin Park – Piano)

(Arr. By Joel Raney)

Tower Bell

*Responsive Call to Worship

We follow you, Jesus, today as we worship;

In words of love and devotion sung and spoken,

In service and kindness, in shared life and prayer-bound hearts.

And all we need do to follow you as we leave this place

**is to continue saying and doing – to others –
what we bring to you in this hour.**

And so we pray for praise and affirmation

to empower our families and communities;

For confession and forgiveness

**to reconcile personal and national enemies,
and lead us into integrity and goodness;**

For thanksgiving and generosity

to curb our greed, and overcome poverty;

For intercession and compassion to heal the broken,

defend the weak, and guide the powerful.

As you feed us now, Jesus, in our worship,

may we become, again, your body which nourishes the world,

and which embraces all people with kindness. Amen.

***Responsive Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gathers the poor of the earth.

Glorious is our God, who wipes away the tears of sorrow.

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gives inheritance to the meek.

Glorious is our God, who satisfies the hunger of the just.

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who gives mercy to the merciful.

Glorious is our God, who gives vision to the pure in heart.

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who adopts the peacemakers.

Glorious is our God, who lifts high the persecuted.

Wonderful is the God of Christ, who finds the lost.

Glorious is our God, who awakens the dead.

God, You are holy – whole-y – one and complete.

**You are Light and Life and Love and Fullness – You can be no
other;**

**You are Beauty and Goodness and Truth – brilliant and
dazzling;**

**And it is we who must change, we who come to this place to
worship,**

**It is we who must choose to gaze on Your holiness & beauty,
and be changed into glory. And, so here we are! Hear our
prayers**

**For ourselves, for others, and for the Church of Jesus the
Christ. Amen.**

***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

Scripture Lesson--From the Hebrews Psalms:
Psalm 34.4-11, 15-21 (Good News Translation)

The Lord watches over the righteous and listens to their cries; but he opposes those who do evil, so that when they die, they are soon forgotten. The righteous call to the Lord, and he listens; he rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who are discouraged; he saves those who have lost all hope. Good people suffer many troubles, but the Lord saves them from them all; the Lord preserves them completely; not one of their bones is broken. Evil will kill the wicked; those who hate the righteous will be punished.

Anthem

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” (arr. Ji-hoon Park)

*Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart*

Scripture Lesson

Scripture Lesson--From the New Testament Letters:
Ephesians 4.30-5.2 (The Message)

Don't grieve God. Don't break his heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for himself. Don't take such a gift for granted. Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you. Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and

learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

God, bless those who are in poor spirit,

who feel empty inside and who dread the day. *Silence*

God, bless those who mourn and grieve,

who ache with loss for someone so much loved. *Silence*

God, bless the people who are meek,

who do not grasp or shout or demand to be first in line. *Silence*

God, bless the people who are hungry for justice

and who cannot wait for everyone to have their rights. *Silence*

God, bless all who are merciful,

who have learned to forgive even those who hurt them hard. *Silence*

God, bless all who are pure in heart,

in whom there is no vengefulness, but only love. *Silence*

God, bless the peacemakers,

the ones who, by their words and deeds, can change the world. *Silence*

God, bless the persecuted ones,

and keep them safe from those who would hurt them. *Silence*

God, so rich in blessings for your children,

we rejoice in Your promises and in Your boundless and transforming grace.

Hear us now as we gather in one voice to pray the words of the Living Christ:

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.

Offertory Invitation

God's grace reaches out to all of us, and calls us to live as citizens of heaven, now, working together with one heart and mind. We bring our gifts to share that grace and help others know heaven on earth in a world that is often hellish and cruel. We bring our gifts for the work of justice, healing, and peace.

Offertory *"How Can I Keep From Singing" (Craig Courtney)*

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night He giveth.

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am His! How can I keep from singing?

Scripture Lesson

From the Gospels: Matthew 5.1-10, 43-48
(NRSV; The Message)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“You’re familiar with the old written law, ‘Love your friend,’ and its unwritten companion, ‘Hate your enemy.’ I’m challenging that. I’m telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that. In a word, what I’m saying is, Grow up. You’re kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.”

Sermon *“Living Faith in Our Times (Prequel #1): A Tale of Two Gods”*
Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

Hymn #61 *“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”* (Wellesley)
(see last page)

***Responsive Benediction**

Jesus says to his disciples, “Happy are you needy ones: The kingdom of God is yours.

Happy are you who are hungry: You will be satisfied.
Happy are you who weep now: You will be filled with laughter.

Rejected, insulted, happy are you; be glad and dance with joy.
Jesus said: Take up your cross.

**We will follow you, O Christ, into the needs of the world, into
the truth of our lives, into the joys and pains of our hearts, into
the presence of God. Amen.**

Postlude

“All Hail The Power”

(Hal Hopson)

WORSHIP NOTES for Today’s Service

The Call to Worship is adapted from “To Worship and to Follow ” by Rev. John van de Laar, posted on his worship site [Sacredise](http://Sacredise.com/to-worship-and-to-follow) (sacredise.com/to-worship-and-to-follow).

The Confession/Adoration is adapted from the work of Rev. Bruce Prewer, (bruceprewer.com) and from Sacredise.

The Offertory Dedication is from the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan. ([/www.umfmichigan.org/offerprayers.html](http://www.umfmichigan.org/offerprayers.html)).

The Benediction is from re:Worship (re-worship.blogspot.com), the wonderful worship blog of the Rev. Christine Longhurst (Assistant Professor of Worship and Music, Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, Manitoba).

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

Liturgist: Jisoo Bae

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.

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There's a Wideness in God's Mercy 61

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel-come for the sin-ner and more grac-es for the good;
3 For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
4 If our love were but more sim-ple, we would take him at his word,

there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice which is more than lib-er-ty.
there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
and our lives would be il-lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.

WORDS: Frederick W. Faber (1814-1863)
MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjée (1858-1913)

WELLESLEY
8.7.8.7.