



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 22, 2021

Thoughts of Preparation

In the first century, a disciple was someone who was learning how to do what their teacher did. It wasn't just about the mind and what you knew, it was about your entire life,

about you learning how to live in the world in a certain way.

-- Rob Bell, What We Talk About When We Talk About God

To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.--

Proverbs 21.3

We do not think ourselves into new ways of living,
we live ourselves into new ways of thinking. -- Fr. Richard Rohr

Welcome

Prelude *“Nearer, My God, to Thee” (Arr. by Young-Jin Noh)*
(Isabella Thoroughman - Flute, Lilyanne Thoroughman – Violin)

Tower Bell

***Responsive Call to Worship**

How can we ever understand the mystery of Your love, O God? How can we ever estimate the value of Your compassion and mercy?

In our weaknesses and brokennesses, in our strengths and wholenesses, we find the touch of Your support and creative energy.

In our fears and suffering, in our joys and pleasures, we find the moistness of Your tears and the percussion of Your laughter.

In our failures and despair, in our successes and dreams, we find the comfort of Your forgiveness and the inspiration of Your Spirit.

These are gifts beyond measure, and we can only respond with joyful praise.

You are the home we long for, the family where we discover that we truly belong, the hearth where we are warmed and renewed and we worship You with our whole being, wonderful and loving God. Amen.

***Unison Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

Inscribe on our hearts, God, the love You have for us, the life You give us, the constancy of Your presence with us. Inscribe on our hearts, God, the call to follow You, the longing to know You, the compassion to love as You do. Inscribe on our hearts, God, the story of Your creating and redeeming, the part we play in Your purposes, the vision of Your dream for creation. Inscribe on our hearts, God, all that you hold in Yours, or at least, as much of it as we can carry. We will follow the example of Jesus, who shows us the Way. 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--The Hebrew Prophets 1: Amos 5:21-24

(c. 780-750 BC, in the "Northern Kingdom" Israel)

"I hate, I reject your festivals, nor do I delight in your festive assemblies. Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them; and I will not even look at the peace offerings of your fattened oxen. Take away from Me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps.

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream!

Isaiah 1.11-17

(c. 740-730 BC, in the "Southern Kingdom" Judah,)

God says, "Do you think I want all these sacrifices you keep offering to me? I have had more than enough of the sheep you burn as sacrifices and of the fat of your fine animals. I am tired of the blood of bulls and sheep and goats. Who asked you to bring me all this when you come to worship me? Who asked you to do all this tramping around in my Temple? It's useless to bring your offerings. I am disgusted with the smell of the incense you burn. I cannot stand your New Moon Festivals, your Sabbaths, and your religious gatherings; they are all corrupted by your sins. I hate your New Moon Festivals and holy days; they are a burden that I am tired of bearing.

"When you lift your hands in prayer, I will not look at you. No matter how much you pray, I will not listen, for your hands are covered with blood. Wash yourselves clean. Stop all this evil that I see you doing.

Yes, stop doing evil and learn to do right. See that justice is done— help those who are oppressed, give orphans their rights, and defend widows."

Anthem

"What Shall I Bring to the Lord?" (Robert C. Lau)

What shall I bring to the Lord when I come to worship Him?

Shall I bring my best as offering to Him? What shall I bring?

Will the Lord require something special from me?

Oh what shall I bring for a King?

I could bring riches, power; now is the hour to lift our voices and sing.

I could bring wisdom, glory, I could tell the story of Jesus, my King.

But hear what the Lord says: Do justice, have mercy, and walk,
walk humbly with your God, Walk with God.

Scripture Lesson--The Hebrew Prophets 2:

Micah 6.6-8 *(contemporary with Isaiah, in Israel AND Judah; the last prophet in Israel before it fell to the Assyrians 732-722 BC)*

What shall I bring to the Lord, the God of heaven, when I come to worship him? Shall I bring the best calves to burn as offerings to him? Will the Lord be

pleased if I bring him thousands of sheep or endless streams of olive oil? Shall I offer him my first-born child to pay for my sins?

No, the Lord has told us what is good. What he requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God.

Jeremiah 31.20-22, 31-34

(626 BC unit the fall of Judah to the Babylonians in 587 BC)

“Israel, you are my dearest child, the one I love best. Whenever I mention your name, I think of you with love. My heart goes out to you; I will be merciful. Set up signs and mark the road; find again the way by which you left.

Come back, people of Israel, come home to the towns you left. How long will you hesitate, faithless people? I have created something new and different, as different as a woman protecting a man.”

The Lord says, “The time is coming when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the old covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and led them out of Egypt. Although I was like a husband to them, they did not keep that covenant. The new covenant that I will make with the people of Israel will be this: I will put my law within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. None of them will have to teach a neighbor to know the Lord, because all will know me, from the least to the greatest. I will forgive their sins and I will no longer remember their wrongs. I, the Lord, have spoken.”

The Church Prays Together

Silent Prayer -- Pastoral Prayer

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

Bring your gifts, friends so that justice will roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream; bring gifts to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God!

Offertory

“Jesus, Savior, Blessed Friend”

(Govenor)

Whom have I, O Lord, beside you? What have I except your love?
Where is home if not for heaven, there to dwell above?
Who are you, if not my Savior? Who am I if not your own?
What are you if not my shelter, Christ, my rock and corner stone?
Jesus, Savior, blessed friend, I will love you without end.

Who will share my earthly sorrow? Who will heal my broken heart?
Who will hold my life together when it seems to fall apart?
When the fears are far too many, and the joys are far too few,
Who will comfort and defend me? Only you, Lord, only you.
Jesus, Savior, dearest friend, I will trust you without end.

Where, O Lord, when life is over, can I go, but home to you?
What have I except the promise where you are I shall be too?
When at last I reach the comfort of that bright celestial place,
There with joy will I behold you, gaze upon your glorious face.
Jesus, Savior, heavenly friend, I will praise you without end.

Scripture Lesson--From the Gospels: Mark 7.1-8, 14

The Pharisees and some legal experts from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. They saw some of his disciples eating food with unclean hands. (They were eating without first ritually purifying their hands through washing. The Pharisees and all the Jews don't eat without first washing their hands carefully. This is a way of observing the rules handed down by the elders. Upon returning from the marketplace, they don't eat without first immersing themselves. They observe many other rules that have been handed down, such as the washing of cups, jugs, pans, and sleeping mats.) So the Pharisees and legal experts asked Jesus, “Why are your disciples not living according to the rules handed down by the elders but instead eat food with ritually unclean hands?”

He replied, “Isaiah really knew what he was talking about when he prophesied about you hypocrites. He wrote,

“This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from me.

Their worship of me is empty since they teach instructions that are human words.”

You ignore God's commandment while holding on to rules created by humans and handed down to you.

Sermon

“Discipleship 2.0” Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

Hymn #358

*“Love Divine All Loves Excelling” (Beecher)
(see last page)*

***Benediction**

Postlude

“Fanfare” (Jean Joseph Mouret)

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

Liturgist: Diana Stamm

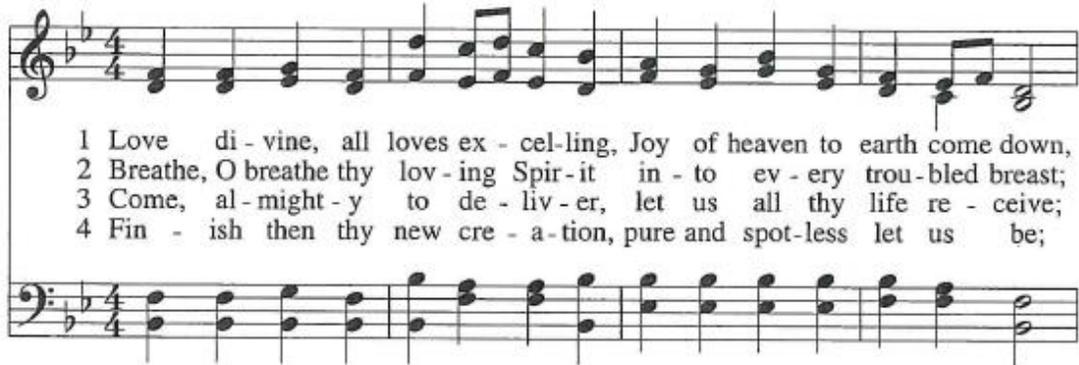
Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

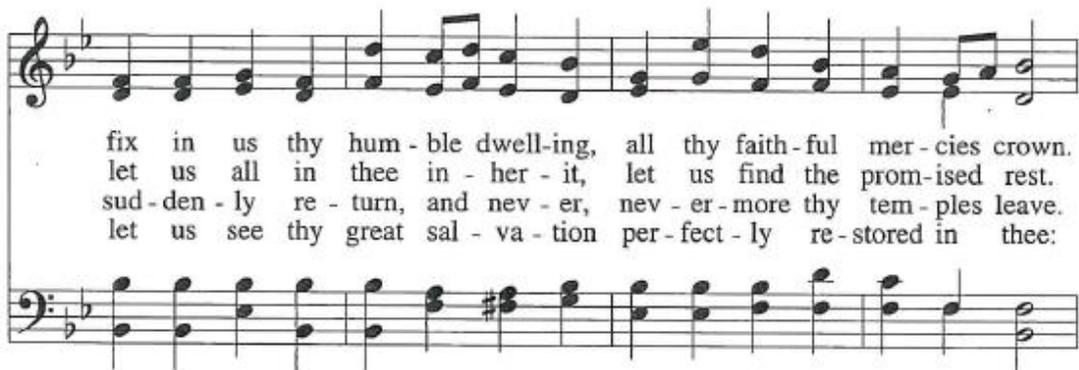
Thanks to all the musicians and to Michael Sullivan and Dobin Park for assisting with filming and to Dobin Park for film editing.

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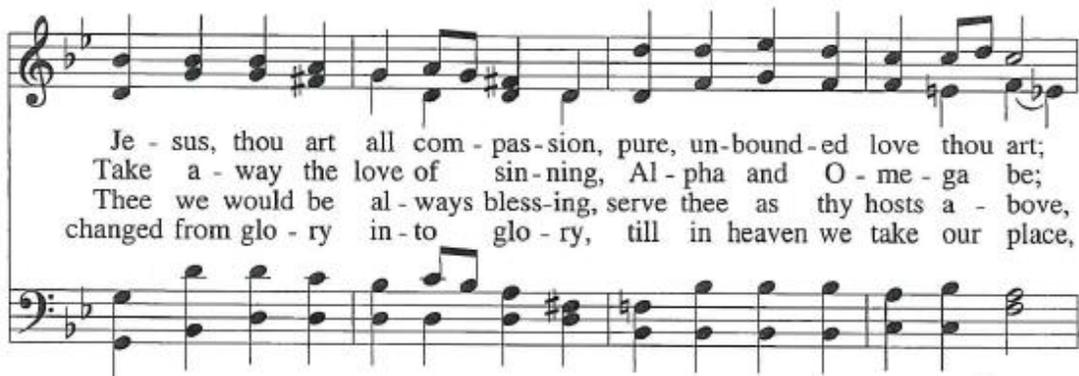
358 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less let us be;



fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee:



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning, Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.