



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 29, 2021

Thoughts of Preparation

The moment you put a mental label on another human being, you can no longer truly relate to that person. . . It then becomes possible to perpetrate any act of violence. -- Eckhart Tolle

The great wisdom teachers and mystics say in various ways that you cannot truly see or understand anything if you begin with a **no**. You have to start with a **yes** of basic acceptance, which means you do not too quickly label, analyze, or categorize things as good or bad. The ego or false self strengthens itself by constriction, by being against, or by re-action; it feels loss or fear when it opens up to subtlety, growth, change, and Mystery. -- Fr. Richard Rohr

Welcome

Prelude

*“We Gather Together” (Arr. By John Innes)
(Dobin Park - Piano, Michael Sullivan – Organ)*

Tower Bell

*Responsive Call to Worship

Summer wanes and the autumn draws closer...

Lord, help us to be ready for opportunities of growth and service.

We have felt the refreshment of time-away, even in the ongoing season of pandemic and uncertainty!

Lord, give us spirits of joy for the times ahead, even when things remain uncertain!

Come, let us celebrate God’s eternal presence and love.

**Let us open our spirits to receive God’s direction for our lives.
AMEN.**

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, You know us so well. We like to think that we can hide from You, but we are just kidding ourselves. You have offered us new life, characterized by honesty, compassion, joy, and peace. You have invited us into ministries of peace and justice; but we have far too often turned our back on opportunities for service and witness to Your transformational love. Forgive us for our stubbornness. Help us to turn around and listen to Your words of hope. Remind us again that You require compassion and mercy in all who serve You; that You will guide our steps and our lives. Give us courage to truly be Your witnesses in this world. AMEN.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

We are called to be not just hearers, but DOERS of the Word--and God aids us in our response!

For God's presence with us, around us, beneath us, within us, behind us, and in front of us: we are most grateful, and we thank God, through Jesus Christ, with our praise and our acts of love and kindness to others! 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-From the Hebrew Bible:

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 (NASB)

“Listen! My beloved! Behold, he is coming,
Leaping on the mountains, Jumping on the hills!
My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Behold, he is standing behind our wall, He is looking through the windows,
He is peering through the lattice.
“My beloved responded and said to me, ‘Arise, my darling, my beautiful one,
And come along. For behold, the winter is past, The rain is over and gone.
The blossoms have already appeared in the land; the time has arrived for pruning
the vines, And the voice of the turtledove has been heard in our land. The fig tree
has ripened its fruit, And the vines in blossom have given forth their fragrance.
Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, And come along!’”

Anthem

“Shout to the Lord”

(Mark Hayes)

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like You.
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your
mighty love; My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength, let ev’ry breath, all that I am
never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing power and majesty, praise
to the King; Mountains bow down, and the seas will roar at the
sound of Your name. I sing for joy at the work
of Your hands, forever I’ll love You, forever I’ll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing: Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer
gleam, O praise Him,
Alleluia! Shout to the Lord!
Alleluia!

Scripture Lesson-From the New Testament Letters:

James 1:17-27 NRSV

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Gathering in Prayer 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

(based on James 1)

Every generous act of giving, as with every perfect gift, is from above. May God's word of truth, implanted within us at birth, bloom in acts of loving faithfulness. May that word shape our lives so that we become doers of the word, using God's gifts for all.

Offertory

“Prayer Of Devotion”

(Lee Dengler)

Open my eyes that I may see.
Incline my heart that I may desire.
Order my steps that I may walk in the
ways of Your commandments.
O God, be my only God, and beside You,
let thee be none else, no other, none else,
but You. Teach me to worship You and serve
You with all my spirit, with all my body,
In all that I say. Both in private and in public,
may I walk in Your commandments. Amen. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

Mark 7:9-23 (Good News Translation)

And Jesus continued, “You have a clever way of rejecting God's law in order to uphold your own teaching. For Moses commanded, ‘Respect your father and your mother,’ and, ‘If you curse your father or your mother, you are to be put to death.’ But you teach that if people have something they could use to help their father or mother, but say, ‘This is Corban’ (which means, it belongs to God), they are excused from helping their father or mother. In this way the teaching you pass on to others cancels out the word of God. And there are many other things like this that you do.”

Then Jesus called the crowd to him once more and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand. There is nothing that goes into you from the outside which can make you ritually unclean. Rather, it is what comes out of you that makes you unclean.”

When he left the crowd and went into the house, his disciples asked him to explain this saying. “You are no more intelligent than the others,” Jesus said to them. “Don't you understand? Nothing that goes into you from the outside can really make you unclean, because it does not go into your heart but into your stomach and then goes on out of the body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared that all foods are fit to be eaten.)

And he went on to say, “It is what comes out of you that makes you unclean. For from the inside, from your heart, come the evil ideas which lead you to do

immoral things, to rob, kill, commit adultery, be greedy, and do all sorts of evil things; deceit, indecency, jealousy, slander, pride, and folly— all these evil things come from inside you and make you unclean.”

Sermon *“Living Faith in Our Times (Prequel #3):
“We Do Many Things Like This...”
Rev. Barry Bordenkircher*

Hymn #595 *“They’ll Know We Are Christians”*

***Benediction**

Postlude *“Alla Hornpipe”* *(G.F. Handel)*

WORSHIP NOTES

Today’s **Call to Worship** and **Unison Confession** are adapted from Ministry Matters “*Worship Connection*” for Aug. 29 (ministrymatters.com). The **Offertory Dedication** is from Rev. Thom Shuman’s Lectionary Liturgies site (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

Liturgist: Kyle Taylor

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

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They'll Know We Are Christians 595

Unison

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.

We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
 And all praise to Christ Je - sus, his on - ly Son.

And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
 And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
 And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.
 And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

Refrain

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.