



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 19, 2021

***Prayer of Adoration & Confession -- “Merton’s Prayer,” Fr. Thomas Merton (1915--1968)**

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end, nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust You always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone. 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 Torah:
Genesis 32:22-32 (The Message)

But during the night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He got them safely across the brook along with all his possessions.

But Jacob stayed behind by himself, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he couldn’t get the best of Jacob as they wrestled, he deliberately threw Jacob’s hip out of joint. The man said, “Let me go; it’s daybreak.”

Jacob said, "I'm not letting you go 'til you bless me." The man said, "What's your name?" He answered, "Jacob."

The man said, "But no longer. Your name is no longer Jacob. From now on it's Israel (God-Wrestler); you've wrestled with God and you've come through."

Jacob asked, "And what's your name?"

The man said, "Why do you want to know my name?" And then, right then and there, he blessed him.

Jacob named the place Peniel (God's Face) because, he said, "I saw God face-to-face and lived to tell the story!" The sun came up as he left Peniel, limping because of his hip. (This is why Israelites to this day don't eat the hip muscle; because Jacob's hip was thrown out of joint.)

Anthem

"You Raise Me Up"

(Tom Fettke)

Be still, my soul! the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain, Leave to your
God to order and provide; In ev-'ry change He faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul! The waves and winds still
know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary; When troubles
come and my heart burdened be; Then I am
still and wait here in the silence Until You
come and sit awhile with me.

You raise me
up so I can stand on mountains. You raise me
up to walk on stormy seas. I am
strong when I am on Your shoulders. You raise me
up to more than I can be.

There is no life, no life without its
hunger. Each restless heart beats so imperfectly
But when You come, and I am filled with
wonder, Sometimes I think I glimpse eternity.

Scripture Lesson

From the New Testament Letters:
Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 (NRSV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

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

“God intends for the body of Christ to battle ‘*influenza*’ and reach the world with his loving care. He does this through people who steward his wealth by sharing their resources and gifts.” *

Let us bring our gifts...to bless and be healers of this world!

[*from Spiritual Disciplines Handbook, A. A. Calhoun, on the discipline of Stewardship]

Offertory

“The Lord’s Prayer”

(Lee Dengler)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
Forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, the power and
the glory, for ever and ever, amen.

Scripture Lesson

From the Gospels Matthew 11:25-30

Abruptly Jesus broke into prayer: “Thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. You’ve concealed your ways from sophisticates and know-it-alls, but spelled them out clearly to ordinary people. Yes, Father, that’s the way you like to work.”

Jesus resumed talking to the people, but now tenderly. “The Father has given me all these things to do and say. This is a unique Father-Son operation, coming out of Father and Son intimacies and knowledge. No one knows the Son the way the Father does, nor the Father the way the Son does. But I’m not keeping it to myself; I’m ready to go over it line by line with anyone willing to listen.

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

Sermon *“BECOMING WHO YOU ARE -- The Spiritual Disciplines,
Part One: What Do You Desire?”*

Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

Hymn #354

“Just As I Am”
(see last page)

(Woodworth)

***Responsive Benediction—Blaise Pascal (1623--1662)**

Lord, help me to do great things as though they were little, since I do them with Your power; and little things as though they were great, since I do them in Your name.

Lord, help EACH OF US to do great things as though they were little, since we do them with Your power; and little things as though they were great, since we do them in Your name! Amen.

Postlude

“Voluntary in G”

(John Stanley)

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

Liturgist: Charles Hawkins

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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Just As I Am

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1 Just as I am, with - out one plea
 2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout
 4 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive,

but that thy blood was shed for me,
 to rid my soul of one dark blot,
 with man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,
 wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve;

and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,

O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

WORDS: Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)

WOODWORTH
 L.M.

